

Pressure mounts for U.N. debate

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — As war escalated in the Gulf, pressure mounted Monday on the Security Council to hold an urgent public debate on the war and to hear calls for a cease-fire. On Monday Jordan added its voice to the appeals of Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Yemen and Sudan to convene "an immediate meeting of the Security Council to examine the grave situation in the Gulf region." Jordan's request came in a letter from its U.N. ambassador, Abdullah Salah, to the council president, Zairean Ambassador Bagheni Nzengue, who has been consulting with the other 11 council members and other states on whether to hold an open session on the war. Closed consultations of the 15-member council were scheduled for late afternoon, after which the president was to announce whether a public debate would be held. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, meanwhile, declined to comment on a letter from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz saying he and the Security Council "bear responsibility to history and mankind for the heinous crimes" committed by the U.S.-led military alliance.

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Qadhafi urges Turks to march on bases

NICOSIA (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi urged Turks to march on U.S. bases in Turkey and close them immediately, the Libyan news agency (JANA) reported Monday. He said by allowing U.S. planes to raid Iraq from Turkey, Ankara was destroying its economic relations with the Arabs and risking pulling Iraq in the Gulf war on the side of Iraq. "I call on the Turkish people to march on these bases and close them immediately, get Turkey out of the NATO alliance and affirm their brotherly relations with the Arab brothers," JANA quoted him as telling Turkish journalists. Colonel Qadhafi said Turks should act by "demonstrations, civil disobedience and revolutionary action" to prevent their country being used as an instrument in the destruction of Iraq. U.S. planes have been raiding Iraq from the Incirlik base in southern Turkey, triggering a veiled threat of retaliation from Baghdad. "The West is not a real ally of the Turkish people," Col. Qadhafi said.

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Allied assault, Iraqi Scud barrage continue

2,000 sorties over Baghdad

Combined agency dispatches

ALLIED FORCES Monday continued to pound Iraq with air assaults, staging over 2,000 sorties over Baghdad which were said to have caused heavy civilian casualties and damages.

The bombing runs by the American-led forces also extended to several border cities. In its 27th military communiqué of the Gulf war, Iraq said it had shot down three allied aircraft or missiles during 118 raids in the previous 24 hours.

The allies said nine air forces in the 28-nation U.S.-led coalition had flown about 25,000 sorties since war erupted on Jan. 17.

French President Francois Mitterrand's top military adviser, Admiral Jacques Lanxade, told French television Sunday a ground assault to drive Iraq from Kuwait could start in about two weeks.

French Jaguar and Mirage jets attacked armoured units and underground command posts in two raids on Iraq Monday morning, the defence ministry in Paris said.

Iraq's IRNA news agency issued an eye-witness report of raids on the towns of Zubayyah and Badra, close to the Iranian border due east of Baghdad.

"After each explosion a mushroom-like column of smoke rose," it said.

In London, British officials

said about 70 Iraqi aircraft had flown to neutral Iran but the reasons were not yet clear. Iran says it will impound any foreign aircraft landing there until the end of the war. Later some reports said the number had risen to 100.

Earlier Monday, Iraq's 26th war communiqué said its air defences had shot down an allied aircraft which "fell in flames inside Turkish territory," Turkey denied the report.

Iraq says it has shot down more than 180 planes since the war began on Jan. 17. The allied forces have reported the loss of 24 aircraft in combat or accidents.

The Iraqi military's 27th communiqué said 50 Israeli planes flew to Saudi Arabia at dawn Monday "to join the aggressive armies there."

The U.S.-led coalition and Israel have denied previous Iraqi statements that Israeli planes were taking part in the allied bombing of Iraq and Kuwait from Saudi Arabian bases.

Baghdad Radio repeated a warning that Iraq would carry the war beyond its borders, saying it had a "strong arm capable of reaching all places."

It quoted the ruling Baath Party's Al Thawra newspaper as saying "honourable Arab and Muslim masses everywhere are preparing to join the great confrontation and announce the struggle to support Iraq."

"National and Islamic groups are moving to the phase of guerrilla activity to start their... crushing hits on the interests of America and its allies... and make Bush a hostage in his black house."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein called last week on Iraqis, Arabs and Muslims throughout the world to launch a jihad (holy war) against the United States and its war allies.

Baghdad Radio said the U.S.-led forces in the Gulf would regret "their criminal acts against our civilians. The bloodshed of innocent people will not go unpunished."

"Every Iraqi drop of blood will be met by killing a large number of people hiding in the Saudi kingdom, Israel or other places," it said.

Iraq also issued a blistering personal attack on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Washington's staunchest Arab ally, and claimed he would soon be assassinated by his own people.

The fusillade against Mr. Mubarak followed Baghdad's blast against U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, blaming him for allied air attacks that hit civilian targets in Iraq.

Baghdad Radio said in a Sunday night broadcast that Mr. Mubarak was a president rejected by his people who would soon

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FRENCH MESSAGE: His Majesty King Hussein received Monday French President Francois Mitterrand's special envoy Francois Cher, who conveyed to him a message from Mr. Mitterrand on France's stand on the Gulf crisis. King Hussein and Mr. Cher, secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry, affirmed the need to continue consultations and contacts on the Gulf crisis and other issues in the region. The meeting (photo above) was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ben Shakar, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi, Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin and the French ambassador in Amman (Petra photo)

Tehran, Amman missions to reopen

Jordan backs Iranian plan to resolve Gulf conflict

Combined agency dispatches

JORDAN SUPPORTS an Iranian peace plan calling for a Gulf war ceasefire, simultaneous pull-backs of Iraqi and allied forces and deployment of an Islamic peace-keeping force, Iran's official news agency said Monday.

The Jordanian foreign minister, Taher Al Masri, expressed backing for the plan in a meeting with Parliament Speaker Mehdi Karrubi, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

Mr. Masri, on the first visit by a Jordanian official to Iran in more than 10 years, also met Monday with Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and handed him a letter from His Majesty King Hussein.

Mr. Masri and Mr. Rafsanjani condemned the U.S.-led air war by the allied forces against Iraq, said the agency.

It quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying Iran "will continue to employ all its means to end the current bloodshed in the region."

Mr. Rafsanjani told Mr. Masri that the only way "to save the region from Western domination and to expel the Zionist regime from occupied Palestinian lands is for the Muslims to unite."

Mr. Rafsanjani, stressing his country's neutral stance on the Gulf crisis, said he regretted "Iraq's blunder and its occupation of Kuwait."



Taher Al Masri Ali Akbar Velayati

He proposed the formation of a committee of Islamic representatives to supervise the withdrawals of Kuwait."

He said the Iraqi move had caused new rifts in Muslim ranks, polarising Arab countries into pro- and anti-Iraq camps.

Reporting on Mr. Masri's meeting with Mr. Karrubi, author of the Iranian peace proposal, IRNA said: "Masri voiced support for the peace initiative."

Mr. Karrubi's plan as reported Sunday by IRNA calls for an immediate ceasefire to be followed by simultaneous withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and allied troops from the Gulf region. In their place, he proposed that troops from unspecified Islamic countries would deploy in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

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Iraq relaxes border crossing to Jordan for war refugees

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A flood of weary Gulf war refugees surged into Jordan when Iraq lifted a five-day closure of its border with the Kingdom Monday, but it appeared too early to judge whether the frontier would remain open for all those who wanted to leave the besieged country.

Witnesses and officials at Jordan's Al Ruweished border post in the northeast said over 1,000 people had come in by late afternoon Monday and that the flood was continuing.

"Crossings in and out of Iraq have been returned to normal as of this morning, and we are receiving people from the (Iraqi border post at) Trebil," said an official at the border.

An overwhelming majority of those who arrived by mid-afternoon was of Jordanian nationality, while the rest included Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza, Syrians, Lebanese, Sudanese, a few Kuwaitis, Indians and other Asians, witnesses said.

"Most of them bore clear signs of having stayed at the border for days without proper food and shelter," said a witness.

The previously announced closure by the Iraqis of the Trebil border Tuesday midnight caught several thousands people unawares at the desert checkpoint, and the situation turned worse when Iraqi border officials insisted that all those who wished to leave the country should secure a special permission from the Ministry of Interior in Baghdad regardless of regular exit permits obtained earlier.

The Vietnamese ambassador to Iraq was among those turned back at the border earlier this week, sources said. The ambassador was earlier reported to be "missing" in Iraq.

The Jordanian Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), in coordination with various other agencies, has been sending food and relief supplies, including blankets, across the border to those stranded there. But shelter against the cold winter was one of the major problems. The Iraqis allowed most women and children to remain within the building of the border authority offices, but others had to huddle around

campfires or seek refuge in their vehicles.

It was not clear by Monday evening whether the reopening of the border amounted to a blanket move to allow everyone out or limited to those already at the border who stood very little chance of getting back to the capital to obtain the required special permission.

Notably absent among the early arrivals were Egyptian nationals, but officials later explained that special buses were being sent to Trebil from Al Ruweished in bringing them in for immediate onward transport to the port of Aqaba and a ferry trip across the Red Sea to Nuweibeh. But there was no report by witnesses of any large-scale movement of empty buses to Trebil by late Monday.

The transit of Egyptian nationals — the biggest expatriate community in Iraq with a pre-crisis strength of over 1.5 million — is handled under a special arrangement between the governments in Amman and Cairo.

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Missile lands in Israel, another shot off near Riyadh

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ FIRED Scud missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia Monday and initial reports said one missile landed in the Jewish state and the one aimed at Saudi Arabia was intercepted by American-made Patriot missiles.

"Due to a missile attack on Israel, an emergency siren has been sounded," Israel Radio said as the wall of the two-tone alert interrupted regular broadcast at 9.06 p.m. (1906 GMT).

Some 45 minutes later, chief army spokesman Brigadier General Naehman Shai announced the emergency was over and said: "What is clear now is that no one was injured."

Gen. Shai said Scud missiles had been launched from western Iraq.

He said one of the U.S. Patriot rockets rushed to Israel to defend it against Iraqi missiles were fired. He initially reported Patriots had been used.

Four people have been killed and 195 wounded in a series of Scud attacks against Israel since the Gulf war erupted on Jan. 17.

Air raid sirens wailed in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and witnesses said Patriot missiles thwarted at least one incoming Scud missile from Iraq.

Israelis were told to don their gas masks again and go to their sealed rooms as sirens blared across the Jewish state.

"There indeed has been (a missile) launching at Israel from the area familiar to us, in western Iraq," Gen. Shai said on Israel Radio.

Geo. Shai said one missile with a conventional explosive warhead

had landed in Israel. An all-clear sounded later.

Gen. Shai would not say where the Scud landed or how many of the missiles had been fired by Iraq.

There was no immediate explanation of why Israel Television showed pictures of what appeared to be Patriot missiles apparently intercepting an Iraqi Scud rocket in the Tel Aviv area. The TV report had said it was not clear how many Scuds or Patriots had been fired.

Israel Radio urged all residents of Israel to seek refuge in sealed rooms and put on gas masks to protect themselves from a possible chemical attack.

A short time later, Gen. Shai said Israelis, apart from those living in a coastal strip between Tel Aviv and Hadera, could take off the gas masks. However, he ordered everybody to stay indoors.

Before Monday night, Iraq had shot six barrages of surface-to-surface Scud missiles at Israel, killing two people and wounding about 200 in the Tel Aviv and Haifa areas. Two other people had died of heart attacks during the missile assaults, and more than 2,000 apartments have been damaged.

Before the latest attack, U.S. officials said that Iraq had fired a total of 25 Scud missiles at Israel.

Some of the Scud warheads had damaged neighbourhoods even though the rockets were struck by the Patriot anti-missile missiles.

Although Iraq has threatened many times to fire chemical

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Jordan rejects missile allegations as groundless

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Monday categorically denied as groundless a report published by a London-based Arabic language daily alleging that Iraqi Scud missiles were being transferred to Iraqi territory from Jordan during the night in refrigerator trucks.

An official spokesman, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, denounced the report published by the Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper as fabricated and groundless.

"The newspaper should realise that such practice is impossible from a technical and practical points of view in an area which is being subjected to strict surveillance by satellites and other advanced means of reconnaissance," said the spokesman.

Jordan, he said, "strongly de-

plores that the fabricated report was broadcast by Saudi Arabia radio since such fabricated news constitutes an open instigation against Jordan."

He said that the Jordanian government intended to take "proper measures by following up this matter with the Saudi authorities through diplomatic means."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir earlier described the newsreport as rumours.

In a late Monday despatch, Petra, quoted an official spokesman for the U.S. forces in Riyadh as denying the Al Sharq Al Awsat report about the Scud missiles.

Petra said that the American spokesman was quoted as making the denial in an interview with the American television network Cable News Networks (CNN).

Summit postponed

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States and the Soviet Union Monday announced that a Moscow summit planned for Feb. 11-12 would be postponed due to the Gulf war and would be rescheduled for later in the first half of this year.

The announcement was made by Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh after Mr. Bessmertnykh held talks in the White House with President George Bush.

Mr. Baker said the decision to postpone the summit was made "by mutual agreement."

Standing at Mr. Baker's side, Mr. Bessmertnykh said "we have decided, the two of us, to postpone it."

Mr. Baker added, "both presidents look forward to setting an exact summit date as soon as it is feasible."

The official reasons for the summit postponement were the Gulf war and the arms control talks. Left unspoken were U.S. government concerns about the Kremlin's crackdown on rebellious Baltic states. The president had earlier indicated his concern that Soviet military actions against the independence movements in Lithuania and Latvia might cause him to defer the summit in Moscow.

On the START talks concerning limiting long-range nuclear weapons, Mr. Baker said the two sides were "getting down to the very end of the line here" after eight years of negotiations on arms control.

He said they wanted agreement "as rapidly as possible."

"The Gulf war makes it inappropriate for President Bush to be away from Washington. In addition, work on the START treaty will require some additional time," Mr. Baker said.

Earlier Monday, Mr. Bush depicted the Gulf conflict as a "just war."

Iraq says fresh hits caused Gulf oil spill

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ MONDAY accused the U.S.-led allies of bombing oil installations in Kuwait causing large amounts of crude to flow into the Gulf.

Baghdad Radio said a government spokesman also disclosed that the air raids on the facilities Sunday night had started a fire which the Iraqi forces and technical teams were trying to extinguish.

The broadcast referred to a spill in the Gulf that started after an air raid at 7.15 p.m. (1615 GMT) Sunday.

It did not mention the slick that has been drifting in the Gulf at least for four days.

The allies say Iraq has dumped six to eight million barrels of oil from tankers off Kuwait and an offshore loading facility, causing the worst spill in history.

The command of the coalition forces has reported "successful" air attacks to halt the flow Saturday, but not Sunday.

Quoting a military spokesman, Baghdad Radio said: "At 1915 last night (Sunday), aircraft of the

American-Atlantic-Zionist alliance raided our oil installations in the governorate of Kuwait, targeting the oil refinery equipment."

"The enemy aircraft attacked the oil pipelines and the control valves in Al Nida port, setting them on fire and causing quantities of oil to leak," the statement said.

Iraq annexed Kuwait as its 19th province six days after the Aug. 2 invasion, which touched off the Gulf conflict. It refers to Kuwait city as Al Nida.

"Once again, the United States and its allies have demonstrated their unrestrained desire to trash the enormous Arab wealth and to prevent our people from benefiting from this wealth," the military spokesman was quoted as saying.

"Despite Iraq's repeated warnings to the United States and its allies on the need to preserve and not pollute the environment in this region... they are still pursuing this evil road," the broadcast said.

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Gunfire in Mogadishu; Siad Barre on the run

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Heavy gunfire reportedly erupted Monday in Somalia's capital, shattering a calm that had prevailed after President Mohammad Siad Barre's escape from rebels who took over the city.

The rebels urged all utility, health, and media workers to resume duties Monday in an appeal broadcast over Somalia radio and monitored in Nairobi.

The radio said the rebels had been holding a very major celebration, in which the Somali people also cheerfully took part.

A pilot flying representatives of foreign news media, including the Associated Press, to Mogadishu said his office by radio he had been advised by another pilot

his colleagues in the Somali capital reported by radio earlier Monday there was no fighting in the town overnight or early Monday morning.

It was the first quiet night in Mogadishu since the rebels attacked Dec. 30.

Dr. Van Praet said two members of Doctors Without Borders' team witnessed Mr. Siad Barre's departure by tank with a small group of military men, but it was not known where the president went.

In Nairobi, a senior Kenyan Foreign Ministry official said Kenya would offer ousted Mr. Siad Barre safe passage through the country.

"The principle is that if anyone comes to our borders from an area where there is trouble, and whose life is threatened, then there will be assistance," he told Reuters.

He said a request for political asylum would be considered separately. "The two are separate issues," he added.

The source confirmed that Mr. Siad Barre — aged about 80 —

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More Iraqi planes take refuge in Iran

Combined agency dispatches

SCORES OF IRAQI air force planes are flying to refuge in neutral Iran.

American's Gulf command gave a figure of 69 aircraft on Monday, 39 of them combat planes. Military sources in London raised the estimate to 100 and said more were expected.

They include some of Iraq's best fighters and bombers plus reconnaissance planes, military transports, mid-air refuellers and civilian aircraft.

Iraq has promised that belligerent planes will be detained until the war ends. It has announced since Saturday the arrival of 13 Iraqi planes, at least three of them damaged or wrecked.

Allied commanders have offered no explanation of why the Iraqi air force is seeking safety in Iran.

Guesswork includes mass desertions, a surprise attack late in the air, an attempt to draw Iran into the conflict and a top-level decision to preserve the air force for a post-war era.

London sources said the flights were coordinated, apparently ruling out defections and carrying "an assumption of defeat somewhere along the line."

The allies say they accept Iran's pledges that, as a neutral power, it will not let them return to fight.

"Every one of those aircraft that leaves Iraq is one less we will have to engage in combat," U.S. army Brigadier-General Pat Stevens told a briefing in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

U.S. and British spokesmen also said they were confident the planes would be shot down if they tried to break out.

Gen. Stevens said the Iraqi planes consisted of 30 civil and military transports and 39 fighter-bombers.

There was no official Iraqi response to the reports.

Allied planes from nine countries — the United States, Saudi Arabia, Britain, Kuwait, France, Italy, Canada, Qatar and Bahrain — flew more than 2,000 sorties on Monday, about average for the first 12 days of the war.

One U.S. marine corps AV-8A Harrier was missing in action, the first the allies have lost for three days, Gen. Stevens said. The allies say the Iraqis have lost 26

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PLO says not too late to end war

AMMAN (J.T.) — Bassam Abu Sharif, advisor to Palestine President Yasser Arafat said Monday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was continuing contacts and efforts to stop the war in the Gulf to pave the way for a peaceful solution to the crisis and the Middle East problem.

"There is a need for stability in the region in order to establish peace, and without the establishment of a Palestinian state on the territories occupied in 1967 there can never be stability in the region, thus no peace," said Mr. Abu Sharif in a statement telefaxed to the Jordan Times.

"The PLO had warned of a catastrophe if the U.S. starts a war in the Gulf," the statement said. "President Arafat had informed the five permanent members of the Security Council and the European Community about the consequences of such a decision and urged them to convene an international conference to solve the Middle East problems," Mr. Abu Sharif said.

"The developments in the Gulf have shown so far that what the PLO has been alerting the world community about is real," he said.

Key parts of Iraqi military still intact

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bomb damage assessments from the first 10 days of allied bombing attacks indicate that some important parts of the Iraqi war machine have escaped significant damage, it was reported Monday.

Citing well-placed but unidentified officials, the Washington Post said:

— About 65 per cent of the Iraqi airfields are operational. However, the report quoted a senior official as saying that "is an abstract capability that does not worry us" because Iraq's air force could be destroyed if planes were brought out of hiding and tried to use the fields.

— Nearly all of the Iraqi air defence radar was taken out in the first week of attacks, but about 20 per cent is back in operation.

— In contrast, Iraq's 3,000 to 9,000 pieces of high-grade anti-aircraft artillery have been largely unaffected by the allied air campaign.

— Only eight of 30 fixed Scud missile launchers had been hit as of Friday and there was no photographic proof of any mobile launchers being destroyed.

Siad Barre

(Continued from page 1)

had reached the southern Somali town of Kismayu after fleeing in a tank shortly before rebels of the United Somali Congress (USC) overran the presidential palace Sunday.

He declined to comment on reports that Mr. Siad Barre — accompanied by a 40-strong group of loyal troops and close family — had radioed Nairobi Monday to ask for a plane to fly him out of the country.

"I know he was in Kismayu, but I cannot say if he is still there," the Kenyan source said. He said he had no knowledge of reports from Somali rebel sources that Kenyan military helicopters had left Garissa — a town near Kenya's border with Somalia — to airlift Mr. Siad Barre to safety.

The Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM), a southern-based rebel movement linked to the USC in a loose anti-Siad Barre alliance, said its fighters were closing in on Kismayu to cut off the fleeing president's retreat.

The rebels drove Mr. Siad Barre from the presidential mansion and seized state radio Saturday night and on Sunday claimed control of the airport, the last government stronghold in the

"The U.S. is trying to distort information about the war. This will not help but increase the problems," he said.

"The U.S. is waging a war of destruction against Iraq killing civilians and destroying civilian quarters. This will definitely cause serious complications," he added.

"Our information is that the Iraqi army is in very good shape and intact. We hope to stop the war now before the parties concerned seek that after tens of thousands of soldiers get killed."

"President Bush has committed a big mistake, but it is not late to stop the war now. Few days later it might become too late."

"President Bush will commit another mistake if he thinks for a minute that the Arab Nation, all the Arab Nation, doesn't support the Iraqi people and Iraq against the war of destruction waged by the U.S."

"This includes Egyptian and Syrian masses."

"The PLO is ready to participate in an international conference that will bring a peaceful settlement to all problems in the region. Israel should realise that the Palestine state is its only bridge to security and peace."

Bush shows visible signs of security concern

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House used decoy helicopters to confuse potential assailants Sunday in a clear signal that it is taking seriously extremist anti-American threats triggered by the Gulf war.

When President George Bush returned to the capital on Sunday from a weekend stay at the presidential retreat Camp David, three decoy helicopters accompanied the helicopter carrying him.

The president's helicopter, known as Marine One, typically is accompanied by only one other helicopter when Mr. Bush flies to and from Camp David or on other short hops.

A Secret Service agent who did not give his name acknowledged the manoeuvre was a sign of tightened security at the White House following threats to target American interests around the world.

In another sign, when Mr. Bush attended a dinner at a Washington hotel last Wednesday, there were three presidential limousines in the motorcade, each decked out with American and presidential flags on their front fenders.

Usually there is only one or at most two presidential limousines in a White House motorcade.

Base leave cancelled

The U.S. armed forces, worried about possible attacks Monday cancelled liberty leave for 40,000 American servicemen and dependents in its military bases in the Philippines.

Philippine officials have warned of attacks by sympathisers of Iraq against the United States and its allies in the Gulf war after a bungled bomb attack at a U.S. library in Manila's financial district last week.

Lieutenant Colonel Ron Rand, spokesman of the 13th U.S. air force at Clark air base north of Manila, said on U.S. armed forces television the security situation was constantly changing.

"On Saturday (and Sunday), we felt comfortable to allow daylight liberty. Today, that's not the case. Effective immediately, the daylight liberty... is suspended," Col. Rand said.

With liberty leave American servicemen and their dependents can leave base after work to shop or for recreation.

Travel by American servicemen outside Clark. Subic naval dockyard and four smaller facilities in the Philippines has already been banned. The only exception is official travel outside the bases, U.S. officials said.

Manila last week expelled an Iraqi diplomat and two Iraqi students for alleged involvement in a failed bomb attack on the Thomas Jefferson library. The three Iraqis denied involvement in the attempt.

One Iraqi was killed and another wounded when a bomb they were trying to plant near the library accidentally exploded, police said.

The Philippine armed forces said they were looking for seven members of Arab groups suspected of planning more attacks.

Seoul beefs up security

South Korea has stepped up security at Seoul's Kimp'o international airport after a warning that Middle East groups have been spotted in Northeast Asia, airport authorities said Monday.

A spokesman for the Korea airports authority said the number of security guards around the airport has doubled and all have been armed since the information was received from the Seoul branch of British Airways.



DEVASTATION: A view of a building demolished in allied air assaults against Iraq in the 12-day-old Gulf war

Lebanon, at peace for once, becomes spectator to war

By Mohammad Salam
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — The Lebanese, ravaged by war for more than 15 years, are relishing their newfound peace and unaccustomed role as spectators in the Gulf war.

But they are eyeing neighbouring Israel warily, fearful Palestinian bases in Lebanon could be targeted if the Israelis are dragged further into the conflict by Iraq's Scud missile attacks.

Cartoonist Pierre Sadeq captured the bemusement of many Lebanese. In a Sadeq cartoon in the newspaper Al Diyar, two Lebanese men are watching the war on television. One says to the other: "We're watching those who've been watching us for more than 15 years."

Beirut and its environs have been at peace, more or less, since early December, when militiamen withdrew from the city under an Arab League-sponsored peace plan overseen by President Elias Hrawi and backed by Syrian troops.

Under the plan, the militias are supposed to disarm as the Lebanese army, with Syrian support, reinstates government control over the country.

"We're not the tools, and we're not the victims of a war in the Middle East for the first time in 15 years," said Ibrahim Hasbani, a Muslim bank employee. "Of

course, one feels sorry for the people being killing in the Gulf, but at the same time, it's not our war."

So far, the plan to formally end a civil war in which an estimated 150,000 people have been killed seems to be working, although not everyone is sure the peace will last.

"It's nice to enjoy peace, especially when the world around you, is on fire," says Jacqueline Qabbout, a housewife. "The people in the Gulf have enjoyed their wealth and spent their millions lavishly when we were living like rats in hunkers and underground shelters."

The Lebanese government has declared its support for the allied coalition in the Gulf war and for the restoration of Kuwait's toppled government.

Although Lebanon is not directly involved in the war, its effects are being felt here. Since the war began Jan. 17, six bombs have exploded at Western and Saudi targets in Lebanon. The worst blast, at a bank in Baalbek half-owned by a French company, killed a security guard.

The prices of basic commodities have jumped by at least 35 per cent in Lebanon since the allied air attack on Iraq began, and many Lebanese have rushed to stockpile food, fuel and drinking water.

The government has sent in-

spectors to penalise gas stations, groceries and bakeries that sell goods at inflated prices.

Some Lebanese radio and television stations have been broadcasting war news around the clock. Many Beirut restaurants and nightclubs installed TV sets so their clientele could keep up with developments.

"We used to switch off the music and put on news flashes because everyone was really interested. But some people complained that they go out to night clubs to forget their own war and not to watch somebody else's," said waiter Antoine Jaffi at one night spot in west Beirut.

"Now we've put the TV in a separate room. The waiters spread the word to those who're interested if there are any major developments in the Gulf and they rush to watch."

Many Lebanese are worried that if their southern neighbour, Israel, becomes involved in the war it might attack the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) estimated 6,000 guerrillas in South Lebanon.

"Of course we'll suffer again if Israel takes part in the Gulf war," said Hussein Haidar, who runs an import-export business in Beirut.

"Israel would certainly try to eliminate the PLO force in Lebanon, regardless of whether the Palestinians were attacking it or not," he commented.

CBS continues search for missing news team

NEW YORK (AP) — A Cable News Network (CNN) correspondent in Baghdad quoted Iraqi officials as saying they were not holding a crew from the U.S. network CBS that have been missing for a week, and did not have any information about the four-member news team.

CBS, meanwhile, said it had expended to find the crew by "urgent and aggressive" contacting officials in the United States and other countries, including Iraq.

Correspondent Bob Simon, producer Peter Bluff, cameraman Roberto Alvarez and soundman Juan Cladera disappeared Jan. 21 while covering the Gulf war. They were travelling without military escort near Kuwait.

"We are doing all we can to determine if indeed Bob Simon and his crew are in Iraqi hands, and if he is, that he be brought to Baghdad and shipped home," CNN's Peter Arnett reported by telephone in a broadcast Sunday.

"The Iraqis are saying they do not have him, or they don't have any information about him at this point," said Arnett, who has been

reporting from Baghdad since the war began earlier this month.

Arnett reported that the director of Iraq's Information Ministry told him that "they have nothing in their intelligence sources, and military and government sources, about the presence of the CBS team in Kuwait."

A Saudi military patrol found the crew's unoccupied car last week. Saudi officials said Friday that the crew apparently had been heading into Kuwait, more than 560 kilometres southeast of Baghdad.

Columbia Broadcasting System spokesman Tom Goodman said the network's appeals for help in getting information about the missing newsmen were made to U.S. and Saudi military officials, and to Iraqi officials in Washington, France, Japan, and Italy and at the United Nations.

The network also wrote to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, and is seeking Iraqi permission to let producer Larry Doyle go to Baghdad to seek information on the missing men, Goodman said.

Pakistan's military chief assails allies

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's military commander on Monday criticised the U.S.-organised coalition fighting Iraq for rushing into a war and prematurely dismissing economic sanctions as a failure.

"The entire civilised world has joined the war against Iraq without having first tried the options for a peaceful solution," the powerful army-chief-of-staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, told a meeting of the country's top military officers.

Pakistan has sent 11,000 soldiers to Saudi Arabia, although the Pakistan government insists its troops are there solely to defend Muslim holy shrines.

Gen. Beg's comments, distributed by the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan, came just hours after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif returned from a peace mission that took him to six front-line Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia.

In Islamic Pakistan, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has become a symbol of Muslim unity,

U.S. planners ponder post-war scenarios

By Ruth Sinai
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. government experts are trying to devise responses to various outcomes of the Gulf war — from Baghdad's full surrender as the most optimistic ending, to a chaotic, leaderless Iraq as the biggest nightmare.

The planners at the U.S. Defence Department, the National Security Council and the State Department are consulting outside experts, sometimes Iraqis, to sketch scenarios and contingency plans.

The plans from strategies to limit Saddam Hussein's power if he survives the war to tacit backing for a coup by military commanders if they feel Iraq is being destroyed in the war. For example, options to limit President Saddam's influence might include international arms embargoes, Arab peacekeeping forces and a large American presence in a "liberated Kuwait."

"Chaos and disintegration are also possible. But we don't want to be the ones restoring order. We'd leave that to the Iraqis and Saudis," said one source familiar with the planners' work.

Their studies, as described by several people with access to the highly classified material, are general in nature. Details will be worked out only when the fighting ends.

Congressman Les Aspin says those who make the decisions are too hasty to focus on anything but the immediate goal of getting

Iraqi troops out of Kuwait. Mr. Aspin heads the House Armed Services Committee.

Congressman Lee Hamilton, chairman of a House Foreign Affairs' Mideast Subcommittee, said, "They've been overwhelmed by the immediate events."

Initially, planners were focusing on scenarios that left President Saddam in power, albeit weakened. "Up to now, liberation of Kuwait was the goal, with the possible elimination of President Saddam seen as a side benefit," said another source.

The sources agreed to discuss planning for a post-war Iraq on grounds they not be publicly identified.

Some scenarios take into account that President Saddam could survive a military defeat. If enough of his elite Republican Guard survives the massive bombings directed at their positions, they might try to keep him in power, said one planner.

Others have concluded since the war began that a truly successful end to the crisis would include President Saddam's removal from power, said another source.

U.S. officials brought that possibility into the open in recent days when they spoke of bringing President Saddam to trial for "war crimes" because his government allegedly mistreated captured American airmen.

Most planners are stymied by the question of a successor to President Saddam.

Visionary sees potential for peace

By Minoli de Soysa
Reuters

COLOMBO — Arthur C. Clarke, the English visionary who predicted the invention of communication satellites, has been watching with fascination the conflict in the Gulf, which he calls "the world's first satellite war."

As far back as 1945, the author of the bestselling "2001 — A Space Odyssey" foresaw the technology which guides Patriot missiles into the skies above Tel Aviv and beams pictures of the war around the world through Cable News Network.

In the technology that brings instant images of death and destruction, Mr. Clarke sees news hope for the future.

Communication is power, he argues, and the forces unleashed by satellites in the Gulf war have the potential for making the world a safer place.

"CNN is one of the participants in the war. I have a fantasy where (Chairman) Ted Turner is elected president of the world but refuses because he doesn't want to give up power," said Mr. Clarke.

He pointed out that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had allowed reporters from enemy countries to remain in Baghdad, something unthinkable in any other war.

"It is a tribute to the power of this new medium that even people like Saddam are giving the facilities (to transmit news). They know that the reports will be seen by everyone almost instantly," he said.

Now aged 73 and living in Sri Lanka, Mr. Clarke is working on a new book, a personal history of telecommunications.

His starting point is a seminal article on satellites he published in a scientific journal in 1945. It ends with a chapter entitled "next month's history," outlining the role of advanced communications technology in the Gulf war.

In an interview in his home in Colombo, capital of the Indian Ocean island, Mr. Clarke

said instant communications could affect the outcome of the Gulf war in two ways.

"Seeing casualties and horrible scenes, one can imagine a revision against the war by the American public. On the other hand, showing those beaten up prisoners could make the Americans more determined to fight."

The author of 600 books, short stories and articles, both fiction and non-fiction, believes the technology of the Gulf war heralds a new age of mass communication that will be a powerful force for peace.

"The further development of a satellite communications network with the wider availability of telephone, fax, television will make us one global family, whether we like it or not," he said.

He prophesied "personal universal telephones," perhaps resembling wrist watches — and as widely available — that would link callers in any country at the touch of a button.

News reporters would routinely file stories from their own small earth stations, making censorship more difficult.

"They would be able to give real-time coverage that was never possible in the past," he said.

Mr. Clarke's prediction of communications satellites predated their invention by 13 years.

Now he is watching their crucial impact in the Gulf war as spy satellites detect Iraq's Scud missile launches and locate potential targets for attack.

"Spy satellites have an enormous security and military impact. The end of the cold war came because America was able to see that the threat from Russia was greatly exaggerated," Mr. Clarke argued.

For a man who has seen the future, is there anything that still amazes him?

"I am fascinated by the microchip, by computers and what they can do," said Mr. Clarke, whose house is filled with computers, awards and trophies.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES

05:36 Fajr
06:27 (Sunrise) Duha
11:49 Dhuhr
14:45 'Asr
17:10 Maghrib
18:30 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifish Tel. 810740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623266.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717131.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Some clouds appear at different altitudes and a rise in temperatures is expected to take place. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy.

Amman Min./max. temp.
Aqaba 1/12
Deserts 6/19
Jordan Valley -2/14
5/13

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 18. Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Hafez Khawaja 791954
Dr. Mufsed Tannous 804480
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 891256
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jaber 775050
Firas pharmacy 661912
Perdovs pharmacy 783336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairovski pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636720
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630241
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

IREDD:

Dr. Abdel Hattamleh (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (275825)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ziad Hawatneh (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

Fire Brigade:

Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630221
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage

Palestine, Shmeisani 664717/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Munshar Hospital 667227/9
Al-Abil, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Abil, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mubaitar 771101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafish 751112/6
Army, Marika 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)863323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)920771
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IREDD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)755555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 550 / 480
Banana 500 / 450

Banana (Mukammal) 450 / 400
Beans 450 / 400
Cabbage 100 / 50
Carrot 220 / 180
Cauliflower 300 / 250
Cora 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 120 / 60
Cucumbers (small) 250 / 200
Dates 500 / 400
Eggplant 200 / 150
Garlic 1600 / 1400
Lemon 180 / 140
Mallow 180 / 120
Marrow (large) 120 / 60
Marrow (small) 250 / 200
Onion (dry) 270 / 220
Onion (green) 180 / 120
Okra 600 / 500
Orange 450 / 200
Pepper (hot) 320 / 280
Pepper (sweet) 120 / 80
Potato 250 / 200
Radish 100 / 50
Sage 450 / 200
Spanish 120 / 80
Tomatoes 160 / 120

Home News

EC expected to finalise grant to Jordan soon

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The European Community (EC) — and Jordan have finalised the details of direct European Commission financial assistance to the Kingdom and a formal announcement of the approximately \$210 million package will be made this week, with a large part of it to be disbursed soon, European source said Monday.

The assistance, part of international aid to Jordan to offset the Kingdom's losses resulting from its adherence to the U.N.-imposed economic sanctions against Iraq, will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 1991, and should be appropriated during the current fiscal year, the source said.

The Ministry of Finance and the EC delegation in Amman are in the process of "fine-tuning certain technicalities" of the aid agreement and an official announcement will be made Wednesday, said one of the sources.

"The entire amount is in the form of outright grants to pay for imports from EC member states," the source said, noting that Europe accounts for about 70 per cent of Jordan's imports.

A "large disbursement" will be made soon after the formalisation of the assistance, which is part of 500 million European Currency Units (ECUs) allocated by the European Commission to Jordan, Turkey and Egypt — the three so-called frontline states hard hit by the Gulf crisis.

The 500 million ECUs (\$675 million) allocation comes direct from the commission's budget and the EC member states would voluntarily contribute a total of another 1,000 ECUs (\$1.35 billion) to be disbursed among the three "frontline" states over and

above bilateral assistance from individual EC members.

Jordan has already received or been pledged about \$250 million as aid from the various EC member states, with Germany providing the largest amount of \$130 million. Non-EC donors include Canada with \$22.8 million and Taiwan with \$20 million.

In addition, the Kingdom has received \$100 million from Japan in long-term, untied soft loans and is finalising another two packages of \$75 million each under stricter terms. However, the release of the \$150 million is also contingent on a parallel loan of an equal amount from the World Bank.

Jordan's 1991 budget envisages total foreign assistance of \$150 million. An emergency supplementary budget of JD 120 million (\$160 million) is conditional on the receipt of additional assistance.

While the monetary situation of Jordan has not been affected to any significant extent by the Gulf war, analysts say that the government might not be able to realise its target of JD 705 million (\$830 million) in domestic revenues and external assistance will have to be appropriated to make up for the shortfall.

Officials as well as analysts are optimistic that the actual amount of foreign assistance to Jordan will be higher than envisaged despite the political and economic pressure brought to bear upon the Kingdom as a result of its refusal to join the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq.

"It is not in the interest of Europe or Japan to have a destabilised Jordan, and it is only natural to expect them to step in to help the Kingdom," according to Dr. Abdullah Malki, general manager of the Association of Jordanian Banks.

Jordan has suspended servicing its \$8.4 billion foreign debts in the wake of the Gulf crisis after having rescheduled repayments and part of interest for fiscal year 1990 and mid-1991 to the Paris Club of creditor governments and the London Club of creditor commercial institutions. However, it has maintained the servicing of its dues to Arab and international agencies whose funds are recycled.

Senior officials have said that the Kingdom would be in a position to resume debt servicing only after it has been compensated for the losses it incurred as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Iraq had been Jordan's biggest trading partner until the crisis erupted in August and accounted for \$200 million annual trade and \$50 million in outright assistance in addition to special oil prices and about \$350 million in transit fees for cargo imported through Aqaba.

Conservative figures supported by United Nations agencies and independent experts estimate the Kingdom's direct and indirect losses resulting from the Gulf crisis at around \$1.2 billion for the year 1990 and \$2.5 billion for 1991.

These figures do not include losses of the savings and assets of Jordanian expatriates working in Kuwait some of whom have since returned.

Reports from Europe meanwhile indicated that Israel could be included in the list of "frontline" states qualifying for EC aid after the recent spate of Iraqi missile attacks on Tel Aviv and Haifa. The issue, which is believed to have the strong support of Germany and France among others, is expected to be discussed by the EC Council of Ministers in their next meeting.

Bonn has already extended a grant of \$166 million to Israel.

Princess Alia joins in planting trees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Hussein Monday took part in a tree-planting celebration organised by the Rosary Sisters School at Yajouz.

Taking part in the celebration also were a number of officials from the Amman Department of Education and the school teachers and students.

Another tree-planting celebration was held Monday at Salt where Balqa Governor Faleh Gharaibeh and other officials took part in planting trees on a plot of land estimated at 50 dunums. Most of the trees planted at the celebration were olives as provided by the Ministry of Agriculture's nurseries.

Ministry of Agriculture Secretary-General Sami Sunnaa last week urged farmers and fruit tree growers to embark on planting trees and said this was the right time of the year for such type of farming.

The Balqa governor said thousands of trees have been planted in other ceremonies held by the municipalities, schools and other organisations in the governorate.

Ortega wants 'weak' U.N. chief to quit

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has demanded that United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar resign because he (De Cuellar) had "allowed the United Nations to be used for the justification of waging a cruel war" on Iraq.

Ortega, who was on a brief visit to Jordan, blamed the secretary-general for being "weak" and for allowing "great damage to be done."

He said that before the outbreak of the war on Jan. 17 he had met with De Cuellar in Baghdad and that the U.N. secretary-general had promised him on the outcome of his talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"What he told us was different from what he said and did later on," he said. He told us that the United States was not justified in waging a war (against Iraq), and that there was a bad interpretation of the United Nations resolution (678), Ortega, head of the opposition Sandinista Liberation Front of Nicaragua, told the Jordan Times.

"Ortega, who was in Baghdad on Jan. 14, recalled his last visit there and his conversation with the Iraqi president. 'Baghdad was braced up for attack, because they were certain that the U.S. wanted war,' he said.

The former Nicaraguan president also said that he felt that Saddam Hussein was still hoping that a peaceful solution could be achieved to resolve the crisis. However, he regretted that all efforts to reach that solution were blocked by certain parties.

"While Baghdad and the secretary-general were talking peace, the White House was authorising war," Ortega said.

Hussein had reportedly told Ortega that the Europeans had asked to meet with him but also set pre-conditions to these talks. "He (Hussein) told me that the Europeans wanted him to say things that would demoralise his people, without even getting a guarantee from them the Amer-

icans would not launch an attack on Iraq," Ortega said.

Ortega, who has been working on a peace initiative with many world leaders is very intent at forming what he referred to as a "coalition of peace."

"Our initiative is a comprehensive one that aims at solving all the regions problems and to create a mass-weapon free zone," Ortega said.

Earlier Monday, Ortega met with His Majesty King Hussein to discuss the progress of this peace initiative. "We will launch this initiative very soon," Ortega said, but refused to elaborate on the nature of this long awaited peace initiative.

During his tours to world capitals, the Nicaraguan delegation met with Italy's Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, who welcomed the peace initiative but seemed resolved to the fact that war was inevitable.

"It is very sad that the Europeans followed suit (with the Americans), and allowed themselves to be used (by the Americans)," Ortega said.

Following his visit to Italy, Ortega went to Moscow and discussed with officials there the initiative.

"On the eve of our talks with the Soviet officials we got word that war broke out in the Gulf," he said. "I told the Soviets that I hoped they would adopt a firmer stand and speak clearly about their position regarding the war in the Gulf," he added.

The delegation also met the commissioner of the European Community, Claude Cheysson in Strasbourg, who expressed to them his desire to end the war and to start a peaceful dialogue.

Ortega emphasised that public opinion was swaying towards ending the war and seeking a peaceful settlement. "There are world wide demonstrations calling for the end of this war," Ortega said.

Furthermore, he added that people are becoming more aware of the horrors of what is happening and would exert pressure upon their governments to end this blood bath.

Syrians return some travellers at border

Government eases travel restriction

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Monday eased restrictions imposed on travel abroad by government employees and others and said that employees seconded to other countries and delegations on official business or those going on training courses and scholarships could leave the country.

According to a statement by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Saleh Masadeh, those with contracts to work abroad or citizens holding valid residence permits in other countries could also leave, provided they were not required to do national service.

Masadeh on Jan. 15 issued an order banning travel of government employees, doctors, pharmacists, male and female nurses, workers at bakeries and petrol stations unless they acquired special permits from the Ministry of Interior.

But as restrictions on travel eased for government employees, reports from the Syrian-Jordanian border said Monday that the Syrian authorities turned

back most of the Jordanian travellers to Syria for the second day in a row.

Reuter news agency quoted official Jordanian sources as saying that nine out of 10 Jordanians trying to enter Syria through the border post of Dara were turned back without explanation following similar problems Sunday.

Freight was not affected.

The agency quoted information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine as saying that the border was not closed and Jordan was trying to find out why some people were being turned back.

The Syrian media had earlier reacted angrily to criticism from Jordanian parliamentarians and newspapers over Syria's policy with regard to the Gulf crisis. The banning of entry of Jordanians was believed by observers to be linked to this issue.

Saudi Arabia, the main ground base for allied forces in the Gulf, had banned Jordanians from entering after war broke out and told those leaving they would not be allowed to return.

All roads open

Snow storm kills one in Tafileh

TAFILEH (J.T.) — All roads within the Tafileh governorate are now open to traffic after they had been cleared from heavy snow in the past three days.

Between 30 and 70 centimetres of snow fell on Tafileh highlands in southern Jordan during the past storm, but according to Tafileh Governor Khaled Bawaliz there were no material losses.

The governor, however, reported that Dr. Abdul Rahman Maqousi, a physician employed at the Basira health centre, died from a car accident at Al Sharif district, 18 kilometres east of Tafileh town.

District governor of Basira, Mukheimeir Faleh, was admitted to hospital after suffering injuries from the same accident which occurred after both men had lost

their way in the snow Saturday while on the way to work.

The governor lauded the continued efforts of civil defence men and police, and also the private sector's volunteers whom, he said, helped to reopen roads and ease movement on the roads.

Bawaliz advised farmers and stock breeders living near the wadis and streams to move away to higher and safer ground and to take extra precaution at this time when the snow is melting, causing a rise in the level of water in the streams.

According to Meteorology Department Director Ali Abanda snow will fall again in Jordan Friday when the country will be affected by a new low pressure with cold fronts.

Queen inspects hospitals

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a series of visits to follow-up on the contingency plan prepared by the Ministry of Health for health and medical institutions in Jordan, Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday visited the Basrah and Zarqa Government hospitals, where she was briefed on the measures that have been taken to prepare the hospitals for any emergency that might arise, in view of the prevailing situation in the region.

Queen Noor also met with a number of nurses and midwives who have recently graduated from the Yajouz and Irbid nursing colleges. Due to the current situation, the nurses were immediately stationed in various hospitals for an on-the-job training and orientation period. An official graduation ceremony will take place at a later stage at which they will receive their diplomas.

In her meetings with the graduates, Queen Noor emphasised the vital role the health sector plays in Jordan and urged the medical cadre to work diligently to serve their country and its people. Her Majesty also commended them on the very important humanitarian work they do.

Queen Noor also toured some of the hospitals' wings and facilities.

On her visit, Her Majesty was accompanied by Health Minister Adnan Jaljoul. She was received by the governors of Amman and Zarqa and the directors of both hospitals.

Last week, Her Majesty paid a similar visit to the Royal Medical Services, where she inspected one of the field dressing stations and met with the staff and doctors who briefed her on the types of procedures and operations they carry out.

Explosion injures girl in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — An 18-year-old girl from Amman was injured in the left leg when an explosive device planted in her car blew up as she was trying to start the engine.

A police statement said the girl was admitted to the Al Hussein Medical City for treatment, and investigations were underway.

The girl, Nancy Kamil Haddad, was described by hospital sources as being in satisfactory condition and resting Monday afternoon.

According to the police report, the explosive device went off at Al Jandawel district in the Wadi Seer area, west of Amman, but no further details were available late Monday.

Expert explains environmental disasters from Gulf oil slick

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — If anyone miscalculated during the Gulf war days, it was the United States and its allies; choosing to ignore the adverse environmental disasters that a Gulf War would bring.

While His Majesty King Hussein and the officials were traveling the world issuing warnings, of potential ecological catastrophes, some foreign newspapers, printing various government sources, dismissed the idea as a "total exaggeration."

On Jan. 23, the oil fields were set ablaze. On Jan. 26, 500,000 to one million barrels of oil were spilled on Kuwaiti shores. The entire world now panics as the worst of pre-war fears and consequences turn into a dire and sombre reality.

The oil slick in the northern Gulf, which has covered some 300 square miles, cannot be easily stopped, according to Dr. Abdulh Toukan, director of the Higher Council for Science and Technology.

The cleaning-up procedures with skimmers and booms involve containing the oil, sucking it on a ship and separating it from water, which is thrown back to the sea, Toukan said.

According to Reuters, Saudi Arabia's state oil company has chartered a Norwegian owned anti-pollution ship to help mop up the oil slick. But Toukan maintained that the ship is not likely to succeed in sweeping the sea clean.

"Each day, half a square mile can be accomplished. Since the oil slick is spread over 300 square miles, you'd need 600 days to clean up the whole thing,"

Toukan told the Jordan Times.

He added that since this has to be done after the war, the oil will not be contained due to spreading. "The oil will also sink, and once that happens, it remains down for good," Toukan affirmed.

The particular characteristics of the Arabian Gulf region worsen the consequences, Toukan said.

"The Gulf, being 600 miles long and 50 to 220 miles wide is almost entirely an enclosed sea. As a result, any oil spill remains within the Gulf region before decimation. Since the Gulf is extremely shallow, with an average depth of 110 feet, the spilled oil would cause extensive damage to coral reefs, sand flats and seagrass beds along the southern Gulf, let alone marine life," he explained.

The burning of the oil slick makes the cleaning procedure much harder and puts forward the question of how easy it is to put ablaze the entire oil slick? "It is not very difficult," Toukan asserted. "All that is needed is more explosives and with a little magnesium it could light up the slick."

However, for how long the slick will burn varies according to the temperature, the water, winds and currents.

"Crude oil contains some of the most volatile gases such as benzene and xylene to name a few," Toukan said, implying that maybe the burning will last a long time.

By the same token, the Kuwaiti oil fields, which were set ablaze under the question of how long it might take to put out the fire of oil wells.

"It takes as much as six weeks to bring the oil well under control," he added.

"Imagine about 500 oil wells. This could take as long as months or even years," Another factor that should be considered is that the burning of oil wells will be in a close range and the heat generated from such a large number of closely spaced oil wells will increase the temperature of the vicinity to a level that would make it practically impossible to approach the burning oil wells," Toukan said.

The burning oil wells will cause the content of carbon dioxide to increase significantly, adversely contributing to the greenhouse effect.

"A sooty smoke appears, absorbing sunlight very efficiently thus reducing daytime temperature," Toukan said. "If we consider three million barrels a day, the soot area after 30 days of continuous burning will be around four to five million square kilometres. In other words, one half the area of the United States," he added.

Because of the heat, estimated at around 400 degrees Centigrade, the soot will be carried high into the atmosphere, and maybe the stratosphere, and maybe the stratosphere, Toukan warned. "It could stay around for months and maybe years."

He added that "in the sub-tropical region, there is a strong wind reaching 200 knots. This is a continuous belt around the circumference of the earth, featuring mainly in Jordan, Japan and Florida. There, the soot may rise up towards this westerly wind and revolve around the earth."

Consequently, smoke may cover the whole earth surface causing a substantial reduction of solar radiation and cooling, especially in the sub-tropical region, he noted.

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Gulf war engages schoolchildren

AMMAN (R) — Forget cowboys and Indians. Screaming like fighter jets and wailing like sirens, Jordanian schoolchildren have invented something they like better — allies versus Iraqis.

The Gulf war game was a hit Monday when one million children returned to school from a three-week break.

At Amman's Zahrat Al Madayen primary school, the mimicked crash of bombs and crackle of anti-aircraft fire echoed around the playground as two teams of 11 in blue school smocks played at war after watching the real thing on television.

Commander Khalid Omar, 11, was in charge of picking the teams, a prickly job in a country where support for Baghdad is strong. Most children wanted to be Iraqis, defending against the attackers — the United States and its allies.

"This is Saddam bringing Bush down," explained 11-year-old Khalil Elias, as he pined a classmate from the opposing side to the ground.

The game begins with someone wailing like an air raid siren. Within seconds the allies were in action, arms stretched like the wings of warplanes and voices growling like aircraft engines as they charged the other side.

Defenders used their hands and feet to push the attackers back. Under the rules, if a defender grabs an attacker's hand or throws him to the floor, it means he has downed a plane.

Casualties were hard to assess,

as they have been in reality. The Iraqi team said it had killed two Americans and captured three prisoners while the allies said they killed two Iraqis and captured four.

Other children stood cheering and clapping as they watched the fighting get more chaotic and unruly towards the end.

Some said children had also thought up another game — "negotiations" — in which "Iraqi" and "U.S." delegates face each other across a desk and talk peace.

It was not very popular. "We always argue and come up with nothing," said Hisham Masri, aged 12.

The school's deputy headmistress, Faridah Rashid, said she toured each class Monday to explain to the 300 pupils about the war and how to face it.

"But they knew more than me. They told me things that I haven't even heard of," she said.

Rashid and headmistress Fawziyah Sharif said the school, like others in Jordan, would soon start civil defence lessons and training courses on how to take shelter in air raids.

Rashid said she had brought to the school sodium, water and pieces of cloth to use as masks in case of a chemical attack and was preparing a sealed room at the school as a shelter.

Rashid said the education department had instructed schools to complete the year's curriculum as fast as possible in case they were forced to close.

Iraqi Scuds trigger souvenir business boom

AMMAN (R) — Fonad Al Afghani and his cousins are mass-producing fake missiles to keep up with demand for replicas of the Soviet-designed Scuds Iraq is fired at Israel and Saudi Arabia.

In a small shop in the centre of Amman, cluttered with souvenirs at in better times attracted eastern visitors, Al Afghani eyes a host of world events, to induce mementoes for local consumption and the rare foreigner.

His latest addition, Scud rockets, reflects huge popular apathy in Jordan for Iraq and against Saddam Hussein's recent missile strikes on Israel. "We have to be able to market rent ideas at a low price in order to sell" said the owner, a

43-year-old businessman whose family once owned an oriental souvenir store in Jaffa, now a suburb of Tel Aviv — Iraq's main missile target.

Before the Gulf war, Al Afghani used to produce badges and plaques for clubs, hotels and the Jordanian government.

Jordanian officials travelling abroad would order plaques made from olive wood from the Israeli-occupied West Bank — Bethlehem and Beit Sahour — to offer their hosts.

"We even made a plaque for (former British prime minister Margaret) Thatcher when she visited a potassium plant in Jordan," Al Afghani beamed proudly from behind his counter strewn with Iraqi flags, Saddam badges and miniature Scuds.

"What encouraged us was the spread of democracy in Jordan," said Al Afghani. "We started with the initials. We produced political slogans and badges of Palestinian leaders, but we only produce items we politically agree with. We have never accepted producing any buttons attacking Syria or Egypt."

His miniature missiles, in the form of three inch (five cm) brooches and key chains, are painted in the colours of the Iraqi flag and inscribed with the word "Al Hussein" — the name of the Soviet-made Scud.

The missiles sell at 2.5 Jordanian dinars (\$4) each and more than 200 were sold the first day they went on sale, said Al Afghani.



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Democracy or hypocrisy?

ONE OF the first casualties of the Gulf war was the institution of democracy in many countries of the "democratic" West and closer to home. In America, the self-acclaimed bastion of democratic rule, Arab-Americans, in addition to being under constant harassment by street demagogues, are now coming under the surveillance of the FBI. France, the country that in the 18th century revolutionised the concept of freedom and democracy, is banning three Arab-language papers printed in Paris and confiscating videotapes that express the sentiments of millions of French citizens of Arab origin. Also in France, Britain and Italy Arabs are being deported or detained, often for no other reason than being Arab.

In Israel, the so-called guardian of Western-type democracy in the Middle East region, the whole population of the West Bank and Gaza, all 1.75 millions of them, have been under an uninterrupted curfew, now entering its 12th day. The Palestinians under "benevolent" Israeli occupation risk being killed if they leave their homes for any reason. And with a total blanket on news from the West Bank and Gaza no-one can tell what the situation is like in Palestinian cities, towns and refugee camps. Even more depressing is the fact that while the Israeli authorities provide an estimated 1,000 foreign journalists working out of there with gas masks, the Palestinian population is denied even the purchase of basic foodstuffs and medicine, let alone the gas masks. This despite the fact that the Israeli supreme court ordered the army to distribute the masks to the Palestinians even before the war broke out in the Gulf.

And when Jordanians, happy with their nascent democracy, express their support to their brothers in Iraq and under Israeli occupation, all the "civilised world" shows is displeasure and indignation over our feelings. Of course, if Western countries with all their famed democracy could be discriminate and brutal against their own societies because of their race, then the Israelis can naturally go even further in their inhuman practices against the Palestinians.

Israeli leaders had been telling visiting German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher that German protesters against the Gulf war were aligned against the West in general and Israel in particular. Although Genscher's Israeli hosts did not spell it out for him in so many words, the message was loud and clear. A democracy that does not serve the whims of Western and Israeli leaders must not be allowed to function. And people who do not "understand" their interests being "defended" by the U.S.-led alliance must be muzzled.

These, for sure, cannot be the bases on which true and genuine democracy is founded. The fact of the matter is that these self-appointed democracies are at best selective in applying their standards who employ all the state power to defend the rights of the few.

And all those who do not fall in line are the outcasts, be they citizens of these "democracies" or of any other aspiring democracy.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ARABS and Muslims will resort to a war of different forms and they will resort to retaliation against the aggressors, and it will be an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth in the ongoing confrontation with the U.S.-led allied, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The Arabs and Muslims who the Westerners call terrorists are bound to fan out and spread all over the globe to take revenge on the aggressors and their interests for the old people and children massacred in Iraq by the air raids and the martyrs whose blood was shed because of this aggression, said the paper. The aggression launched by the U.S.-led allies including the U.N. Secretary General will not escape without punishment for their aggression on the Arab and Muslim people of Iraq and for their massacring of women and children, the paper said continued. Millions of Arabs and Muslims can by no means forgive the aggressors nor can holy war against the invaders be abandoned until Arab and Muslim people's rights have been restored, the paper added. The invaders, the paper said, will be chased around in every corner and they will pay dearly for their crimes against humanity. The paper said there can be no mercy for those who launched aggression on Iraq or those who have been financing or helping the invaders; and the faithful will soon embark on the first step to carry out their revenge.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday urges the Jordanian public to contribute generously towards bolstering the country's defences in the face of aggression by donating funds to the People's Army. Nazla pays tribute to those wealthy, but few people, who have to date offered large sums of money to the People's Army and to those private organisations which followed suit, and the workers who gave a one day pay for this noble cause. The writer notes that the People's Army will no doubt assume the role of defending the nation as a back-up force to the regular armed forces in the event of war; and this army should be the pride of all Jordanians for the sacrifices it is being prepared to offer for the nation. Under the present crucial circumstances and in the light of continued aggression on Iraq and the looming danger threatening the Kingdom, one tends to look to the wealthy among the Jordanian people who had massed their wealth from Jordan and built their richness as a result of the facilities offered them by the country, the writer adds. He says that the rich should join the efforts of the poor and the ordinary people who have been offering all they can for their country and their nation.

The View from Fourth Circle

History, human nature and the cash register coalition

WHILE Washington and the cash register coalition have kept their guns and diplomacy focused squarely on Iraq and Kuwait during the past half year, the United States has probably once again missed a crucial change in the people and the political landscape of the Middle East. The American-led military force assembled in the Gulf is likely to prevail over Iraq militarily, though at terrible cost to both sides and perhaps to the entire global economy. One does not doubt the ability or willingness of the United States and friends to kill Arabs and Muslims, and destroy their national and economic assets.

The question is — and has been since the French in their imperial flair entered Indochina several decades ago and then bowed out in favour of the Americans and their intuitive Third World ugliness: can military might based on superior technology resolve a political and human problem based on sustained injustice?

The answer is: for a while, yes. For a few years (Vietnam et al), even a few decades (South Africa, East Europe et al), force can triumph over justice. But in the end, justice prevails. In this Gulf war, the Americans and the cash register coalition have the short-term advantages of money and technology on their side. Iraq and the 80 per cent of the Arab people who stand with it have the long-term advantages of history and human nature on their side. You take your choice, and either die with dignity, or die in a blaze of sugar-coated breakfast cereal and 36 different flavour of American ice cream.

The West is enchanted by the repertoire of technological wizardry coming out of the Pentagon, and lapped up by the western press. It's simply too much for the press and the people to resist — especially when one has to compete against Joe Montana and Captain Kangaroo for the hearts, minds and attention span of a nation that has been transformed from a people into a mere audience, one that is measured not by emotions, morality or aspirations, but by ratings. The playing field has been carefully drawn by Americans who respond to cheerleaders and pom-poms better than they do to the historical reality of billions of Third World people who are not white, Christian/Jewish, industrialised and northern. Americans have led the world into the ultimate fantasy — a real-life, high-tech video arcade game in which the forces of civilisation defeat the forces of evil. How simple and neat the world is when viewed through the gun sight of a Stealth bomber, or the joystick of a video game.

While the British and French foreign ministers meandered this week to "look ahead to the future of the Middle East after the Gulf war" — in a macabre, haunting replay of the Sykes-Picot era and mentality — we, too, have been looking back to history and forward to the future. I am convinced that political and emotional forces unleashed throughout much of the Arab World since early August will start to redraw the Arab political map in years to come. In the redrawing, the United States, Great Britain, Israel and those who joined the cash register coalition will be the ultimate losers.

The two most significant political forces in the Arab World in the past ten years have been Islamic fundamentalism and democratic pluralism, reflecting the feelings and hopes of the overwhelming majority of the people of the region. Both forces have grown as an indigenous grassroots response to half a century of failure to achieve Arab goals — goals such as domestic democracy and pluralism, indigenous socio-economic development, stability and long-term security, pan-Arab regional integration and cooperation, meeting the challenge of Israel, fostering rational and productive ties with the industrialised powers of the north, and overcoming the legacy of nearly a full century of manipulation and subjugation of Western military powers driven to safeguard their own colonial and imperial interests in the region.

Islamic fundamentalism emerged in the early 1980s because people had no other source of hope or change than God — in the same manner that religious figures and institutions were such a powerful force of change and a focal point of activism among blacks in the American south, and in Southern Africa, Poland and Romania, South Korea and Central America, among others. Unable to secure their human needs, political equity or hope for the future from their temporal political rulers, the Arab and Muslim people turned to God.

Their activism, organisational skills, motivation and lack of fear saw the Islamic fundamentalist movements challenge powerful and established political systems throughout the Arab World during the 1980s. In some Arab countries, they were crushed by

the political and military forces of the incumbent ruling power, but remain very powerful beneath the surface. In others, they helped foster significant political change which included the beginning or the restoration of pluralistic and democratic rule.

These nascent democratic and pluralistic systems started to take root, in various forms, degrees and periods, in Sudan, Algeria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Yemen and Tunisia. The combination of Islamic fundamentalism and democratic pluralism represents the most powerful, authentic and widespread political sentiment to sweep the Arab World perhaps since the days of Saladin in the 12th Century. The West, especially the United States, has largely missed the meaning of this change in the attitude, bravado, dynamism and organisational capabilities of the people of the Arab World — and of this people's willingness to suffer inequity and subjugation no more, whether it comes from their own country, the broader region, or Fort Bragg.

The Arab and Muslim people today, unlike those of three or four decades ago, are no longer willing to remain docile, obsequious and humiliated in the face of domestic autocracy, regional defeat, pan-Arab fragmentation, social and economic confusion, or international humiliation. The posture of Iraq since Aug. 2 and the immense support it has received from most of the people of the Arab World, including its stoic and honourable performance during the early weeks of the Gulf war, has ignited a third powerful force in the minds and hearts of people throughout the Arab World — the force of pan-Arab nationalism.

Yeah, yeah, I know, I know: Saddam Hussein is an animal who stole Kuwait from its mother and ate it for breakfast. In the face of this awful deed, the larger fact remains that western/Zionist neo-colonialism, militarism, and predatory diplomacy during the past 75 years is far and away the greatest threat which has confronted the entire Arab World throughout most of this century. It does not detract from the wrong that has befallen Kuwait; it simply dwarfs it, and overwhelms it in our perception of political priorities. Certainly, Kuwait must be liberated, along with Palestine, South Lebanon, and the Golan Heights — but if liberating Kuwait means once again delivering the entire Arab World to the political subjugation, military control, commercial exploitation and neo-colonial dominance of the western/Zionist combine, with funding, fawning and foot soldiers from the cash register coalition, then the response which can be expected is precisely the response which has emanated from most of the Arab people since Aug. 2.

In the wake of the war, no matter how and when it ends, the fusion of Islamic fundamentalism, democratic pluralism and pan-Arab nationalism will continue to grow throughout the region — fuelled and hastened by the spectacle of the power of Iraq being destroyed by a combination of the Mother of Colonialists (U.K.), the Neo-colonialist Kid (USA), Israel, and the cash register coalition (comprising would-be and has-been European colonialists, panting geo-political gnomes, assorted Arab merchants and basket cases, and hangers-on from the rest of the world). This fusion of Arab sentiment will challenge those in the area who sided with Israel and the United States in their war against Iraq, and should usher in a period of sustained but perhaps slow political re-ordering in the region. Add Somalia to the list. We already see signs of change in Morocco and Egypt. Others will follow. Unlike the Pacman Universe favoured by George Bush and the American people, the real world of mass justice and national dignity does not happen overnight, or without cost. That, one remembers, was the lesson of the American Revolutionary War and the Civil War. Or did the world history of national justice stop in the third quarter of the 19th Century, because the American people were in right of drive-in movies, self-cleaning ovens and pre-battered English muffins?

Though the physical destruction of Iraq and Kuwait will be a dear blow to pan-Arab interests, the future of the Middle East will be determined ultimately by the more powerful regional political forces which have been unleashed since Aug. 2, in the short run, and since the overthrow of the shah of Iran in 1979, in the longer run.

While the war itself is not going to be a repeat of Vietnam, the political aftermath will be. The military superiority of the United States and Israel can and repeatedly does ravage the region; but ultimately, when the Arabs show that they can and repeatedly do sustain more damage than the American-Israeli coalition can inflict, the political will of the 200 million Arab nationals will triumph. In other words, when western military superiority no

longer scares an indigenous Third World population that has reached a stage of fearlessness, the stage is set for indigenous justice to prevail over western militarism.

It is no wonder that the Americans and the cash register coalition keep their focus squarely on Kuwait, while ignoring the problems and hopes of the people of the rest of the region. Like the gun sights of a Stealth bomber, there is drama and determination in such a blinkered attitude — and political fantasy of the sort which we have not seen practised on a large scale since the Americans did the same thing in Vietnam some 20 years ago.

The most significant lesson of the past six months has not been the military resolve of the west, but rather the steadfast, unblinking, uncowed political resolve of Iraq and the 80 per cent of the Arab peoples who have stood with it in its confrontation with the United States. The military destruction of Iraq will only increase this sentiment in Arab minds and hearts — just as the increase this sentiment in Arab minds and hearts will increase the resolve of the Arab people to resist the resolve of the United States.

This is the probable political consequence of the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the region during the past decade. Islam has provided emotional fortitude which in turn has given the Arabs a political resolve that is unprecedented in this century. Combined with nascent democracy and resurgent Arab nationalism, it holds out the promise of providing the Arabs with the means of dealing with their array of regional and domestic problems. A greater expression of true grassroots Arab sentiments — through democratic pluralism, Islamic fundamentalism, or a synthesis of the two — will lead to more productive integration of pan-Arab human, economic and natural resources.

A dream, you say? So was freedom in East Europe and South Africa a year ago. Or are Arabs and Muslims not allowed to aspire to their dreams except if they sign up for the cash register coalition? Do our national aspirations only derive validity from the seal of approval of Washington and London? That was the case at the start of this century; it is no longer the case today — regardless of how much impressive weaponry the Americans can bring into this region, or how much cash they can squeeze out of its more profligate and confused leaders. Those who trust American promises do so at their own peril, because — in line with the convenience ethic which dominates American society — they will be used and discarded at Washington's whims. Look, for example, at how the United States reacted to Jordan and Yemen when these two countries moved into a democratic mode. Because our people and leadership spoke in a single voice for pan-Arab rights and against foreign military intervention, we have been subjected to a crude and fierce pressure campaign, to the point where both Yemen and Jordan face economic collapse. The world seems not to care. The lesson: Arab salvation, security and identity come from pan-Arab action and integration, and not from a box of Cheerios. Arab redemption comes from honest Arabs, not from air-cushioned sneakers that glow in the dark.

The west and Israel will always try to oppose the trend towards Arab unity, independence and strength. This is clear in their drive not only to force Iraq out of Kuwait, but also to destroy Iraq's military and economic assets. But, Israel and the west probably cannot ward off a more rational and integrated Arab World for very much longer, because a pivotal historical moment has been reached.

For the past five and a half months, the Arabs and Muslims of the Middle East have sent a clear message to the world; the age of colonialism and imperialism is over. The era of Arabs and Muslims being at the receiving end of double-standards in applying U.N. resolutions is over. The era of Arab submission to the military strength of Israel and its American financiers and apologists is over. The current conflict, and the attitudes it has revealed throughout the Arab World, represents the end of the old era, and the start of a new one. You can't see this through the gun sights of a Stealth bomber, political blinkers that do not permit you to look beyond the borders of Kuwait, or the haze of a political career recently dominated by a determination to dispel the image of a wimp. But, if you look hard and long enough, you'll see it in the eyes of our Arab children, in the hearts and minds of our middle aged men and women, and in the bitter memories of our elders. Either that, or the 150 million Arabs who oppose western militarism and support Iraq's defiance of the United States are collectively stark raving mad.

Superpowers closer on Gulf than on arms or Baltics

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Efforts by Washington and Moscow to display unity on the Gulf crisis contrast with silence on other disputed topics: The Baltic republics, arms control and a Kremlin tilt towards hardline policies.

After two hours of talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Saturday the new Soviet foreign minister, Alexander Bessmertnykh, reassured U.S.-Soviet solidarity in the campaign to force Iraq out of Kuwait. But he could not erase entirely what seems to be a growing difference over U.S.-led air raids which Moscow fears may be inflicting too much damage on Iraq and its civilian population.

He and Baker said work remained to be done on the start treaty under negotiation since 1982 to slash strategic nuclear arms.

They said a recent bloody crackdown on pro-independence forces in the Baltics and other Soviet domestic developments had been discussed, but neither gave any clue as to whether U.S. concerns had been answered.

Has a dramatic improvement in superpower ties, hailed as perhaps the Bush administration's major foreign policy achievement, suffered irreparable damage because of an apparent headline shift by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev?

U.S. officials admit relations have suffered. How seriously may become clearer after a Monday meeting between Bessmertnykh and President George Bush.

They will decide whether a Gorbachev-Bush summit will take place in Moscow as scheduled, from Feb. 11-13.

Even if the summit is delayed, however, both governments are expected to try to couch the decision in words that will not

exacerbate tensions.

Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation as Soviet foreign minister in December, carrying with it a warning against dictatorship in his country, hit Washington like a wave of cold water.

Since then the killing by Soviet troops of pro-independence activists in Lithuania and Latvia — action disavowed by the Kremlin

concessions on START.

Bessmertnykh's comments on Saturday could be interpreted as willingness for a postponement, or resignation that such a move is inevitable.

"I'm optimistic about the need to have a summit happen," he told reporters. "But we shall discuss the timing and circumstances for it."

The New York Times quoted administration officials as saying Washington would ask for the summit to be postponed unless Bessmertnykh brought a convincing new message of changed Soviet policy on the Baltics or concessions on START.

— has filed Congress and forced Bush to threaten sanctions to show U.S. abhorrence of such trends.

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund have reacted to the crackdown by postponing talks with the Soviet Union, which desperately needs economic help.

News on Saturday was ominous. The Kremlin ordered troops to patrol with police in major cities. Critics saw this as a new sign Gorbachev was surrendering to hardliners.

The New York Times quoted administration officials as saying Washington would ask for the summit to be postponed unless Bessmertnykh brought a convincing new message of changed Soviet policy on the Baltics or

The summit centrepiece was to be the signing of the START treaty, which senior officials say has been near completion for three years, lacking only sufficient political will.

But U.S. officials say the Soviet military exercised a strong hand during five days of intensive negotiations by U.S. and Soviet teams last week. They say there was little sign of flexibility from Moscow.

Furthermore, there has been no indication that a dispute over a treaty reducing Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) has been resolved.

The Americans have accused the Soviets of cheating by transferring weaponry beyond the usual mountains so it does not fall under the pact's limits.

Intense bombing not always decisive in past battles

By Robert Barr
The Associated Press

LONDON — Allied commanders in the Gulf boast that their bombardment of Iraqi targets is the heaviest in history. Some past engagements that started similarly, however, have ended miserably for the bombers.

"If you have a high-quality opponent, bombardment alone will not prevail," Peter Simkins, historian at the Imperial War Museum, said Thursday.

'In the Second World War, In Monte Cassino and I suggest in Iwo Jima, Okinawa and Normandy, we enjoyed naval and air superiority. Yet despite enjoying these factors, we did not have an easy time.'

The allied forces are fighting in different terrain than in the two world wars, and with vastly different weapons against an Iraqi army of still unknown capability to withstand aerial punishment. But Simkins cautioned that they should still heed the lessons learned by their predecessors.

"In the second world war, in Monte Cassino and I suggest in Iwo Jima, Okinawa and Normandy, we enjoyed naval and air superiority. Yet despite enjoying these factors, we did not have an easy time," he said.

His colleague, Laurie Milner, said British forces learned a similar bitter lesson in the disastrous first battle of the Somme, in France, in World War I.

"The British infantry was under the impression that there weren't any (German) men alive in the trenches, or if they were they would be happy to surrender," Milner said.

At the Somme in 1916, the British deployed 1,537 guns, one every 20 metres. It was said to be the greatest concentration of fire-

the Somme by the British commander, Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig.

"In the early discussions, Haig had said that corps were not to attack until their commanders were satisfied that the enemy's defences had been sufficiently destroyed but this condition seems to have dropped as time passed," according to the official history of the war.

In 1944 assault on Monte Cassino in Italy, allied forces encountered furious opposition from German forces which survived bombardment that had reduced the hilltop monastery to rubble.

The allies set up the invasion Iwo Jima by a then unprecedented bombardment for the Pacific — 6,800 tonnes (6.2 million kilograms) of bombs, followed by 22,000 shells in a three-day naval pounding before the invasion on Feb. 19, 1945.

U.S. forces took 27,499 casualties before the fighting ended in June, against a Japanese garrison estimated to have no more than 23,000 men.

In Normandy, though the Germans "resisted us in their usual professional way, their resistance may have been a lot worse" without the pre-invasion bombing, Simkins said.

During the first week of the Gulf war, the multinational force flew an estimated 8,000 bombing missions in what U.S. military officials described as virtually a non-stop assault. No figures have been given for the amount of bombs dropped.

power up to that time, and it battered the German trenches for a week.

When the British infantry attacked on July 1, marching slowly in compact formations, it was torn apart by machine guns. The British suffered 21,392 dead — the worst day in British army history.

Milner noted that the British commanders at the Somme did not have the detailed aerial surveillance available today. Nor have the allies ended the bull-headed optimism displayed at

Masri

(Continued from page 1)

later Monday. In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, he said he discussed Jordanian-Iranian relations with Iranian leaders. The two sides agreed to work closely towards achieving a ceasefire in the Gulf war, he said.

"We agreed to maintain contacts on all levels, especially on the level of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference," he said.

Jordan and Iran also agreed on the reopening of their respective embassies in Tehran and Amman within the next two weeks and said the two countries held close or identical views on many issues.

The announcement was made by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati who described his talks with Mr. Masri over the past two days as constructive.

"The two countries shared close or identical views on many issues and contacts are likely to increase in the future and bilateral cooperation would expand in the cultural and economic fields," Mr. Velayati said.

IRNA also quoted Mr. Velayati as saying that "the Gulf crisis brought about changes to the region such as the resumption of Iran's diplomatic ties with Jordan, Tunisia and Mauritania."

Speaking before he saw Mr. Masri, Mr. Velayati said: "Political reforms in Jordan and the election of Muslim candidates to Jordan's parliament last year had paved the way for renewal of ties between the two countries."

Mr. Masri called his visit to Tehran fruitful and said his talks with Iranian officials signalled bright prospects for Tehran-Amman relations and political cooperation, IRNA noted.

The agency quoted Mr. Masri also as saying that the two countries would cooperate at regional and international levels.

Mr. Masri was quoted as telling Mr. Rafsanjani that Jordan "is ready to participate in all efforts aimed at reaching a ceasefire in the Gulf." He also voiced Jordan's full backing for Iran's endeavours to convene an Islamic conference to examine the crisis.

Border

(Continued from page 1)

Ruweisah, 15 Iranians were also among those arriving Monday. Earlier statistics from evacuee-transit camps in Jordan said another 11 Iranians remained in the Kingdom.

Most of the Iranian evacuees from Iraq are believed to be members of Mujahideen-e-Khalq — the main rebel movement opposed to the Tehran government who are leaving the region after Tehran and Baghdad agreed to make peace shortly after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August.

"We are Iranian refugees who have been in Iraq for the past few years and we are not requesting the Jordanian government and the United Nations to assist us to go to Europe," Mansour Mustafar, a self-described spokesman for the group which arrived Monday, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

Jordanian as well as international relief officials said Monday there was no way of even estimating the number of war refugees who might arrive in Jordan. Earlier accounts have mentioned figures between 1.5 million and two million, in-

cluding possible civilian casualties in the war, but only about 13,000 have crossed into Jordan since Jan. 17, when the American-led allied forces unleashed a fierce air assault on Iraq and Kuwait.

"Worries over massive exodus of war refugees remain very strong," said a senior international relief agency official. "The situation will be clearer when the ground offensive starts."

According to the International Organisation of Migration (IOM), the process of flying home evacuees from Jordan against the backdrop of the suspension of regular airline flights to Amman got off with a good start Monday.

Groups of Vietnamese and Thais were either in Egypt and on their way there across the Red Sea for flights home from Cairo. Over 600 Asians — Indians, Pakistanis and others — are scheduled to be flown home from Aqaba Tuesday. Charter flight were also scheduled for Sudanese evacuees.

Planes

(Continued from page 1)

planes in the air and 23 on the ground, against 20 allied aircraft downed by ground fire.

This still leaves Iraq with several hundred combat aircraft intact and raises questions about the permanence of allied air superiority.

But U.S. and British spokesmen claimed the allies had control of the skies over Iraq and Kuwait because the Iraqi planes were not challenging them.

At sea Monday, U.S. navy A-6 aircraft attacked Iraqi boats at the naval base of Umm Qasr, in Kuwait harbor and in the Bubiyan channel at the northwest tip of the Gulf, Gen. Stevens said.

Official IRNA news agency quoted the Supreme National Security Council as saying: "... Iran reiterates that the Iranian air space is insecure and dangerous for the planes of the belligerent parties in the war, and warns that in case any planes from the two sides land at Iranian territory, they will be held until the war is over."

The Iranian ambassador in the United Arab Emirates said the Iraqi planes had been allowed to land for humanitarian reasons. "IRNA said six Iraqi planes had crossed into Iran Sunday and Monday and two of them had crashed."

Assault

(Continued from page 1)

share the fate of his predecessor, Anwar Sadat.

Mr. Sadat, who signed the Camp David accord with Israel in 1979, was assassinated by Muslim fundamentalists in October 1991.

"The Egyptian people, who have a rich legacy of Arabism, struggle, and history, have said their word and issued their verdict on... Hosni," said a Baghdad Radio commentator. "They carried out their verdict on his predecessor Ali Sadat. Hence, Hosni's date with death will not be far away."

The broadcast called Mr. Mubarak "a frightened coward," and said that he appeared more Zionist than his "Zionist friends in Tel Aviv" during a Thursday speech.

In that speech, delivered before the Egyptian parliament, Mr. Mubarak belittled Iraq's missile attack on Israel, calling them

an ineffective political gimmick and likening them to children's noisemakers.

In his speech, peppered with personal attacks on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Mr. Mubarak also criticised Iraq's demands for simultaneous negotiations on all Mideast issues.

The Iraqi commentary called the Egyptian president "stupid" and "lacking in manliness," and said that he had sold out his country for money.

That was an apparent reference to Washington's writing off Egypt's \$7 billion foreign aid debt in appreciation for Cairo's help in the Gulf crisis.

In other Gulf developments: The people of Baghdad are becoming hardened to repeated bombing raids from allied aircraft in the Gulf war, a Spanish journalist reported from the Iraqi capital.

"People are slowly overcoming their fears, as if the bombs weren't aimed at them, and many have become completely inured to the noise of incessant alerts," Alfonso Rojo said in a report published by El Mundo newspaper Monday.

Iraq has a deadly collection of surface-to-surface missiles other than the Scud which could play a key role against an allied ground attack on Iraqi forces in Kuwait, a respected British defence journal said.

Jane's Soviet Intelligence Review said Iraq had a large but unspecified stock of the battlefield missiles which would be well dug-in and may have escaped allied bombers.

The journal's editor, Henry Dodds, said: "Iraq has got the potential to launch a lot of missiles at any ground force."

Missiles

(Continued from page 1)

weapons at Israel, the Scuds launched so far have only carried conventional warheads.

In Riyadh, a military source said Iraq fired a Scud missile at the Saudi Arabia's capital Monday night but it was shot down south of the city.

"It was a Scud," he said. "We got it, about 20 kilometres south."

Until Monday, 26 Scuds had been fired at Saudi Arabia, most of them have been destroyed by Patriots.

Earlier Monday, Israeli leaders warned Iraq that it would be taking "very, very grave" risks in attacking with chemical weapons and said Israel had military contingency plans for retaliation against such an assault.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens issued the warnings a day after U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Iraq may resort to firing Scud missiles with chemical warheads.

Israeli editorials also debated Monday how long the public would remain patient after the Iraqi missile attacks.

Mr. Shamir said it was unclear whether Iraq has the technology to carry out its threat to fire chemical weapons at Israel. Mr. Arens said Israel lacked "fool-proof information" about it.

"Maybe (Iraq) does, maybe (it) doesn't," Mr. Shamir added, speaking on Israel Radio. "And if (it) has them, (it) could use them, but if (it) uses them, (it) is risking (itself) to a very, very grave extent."

Any Israeli action would be coordinated with the United States, Mr. Shamir added. "Israel is not interested in doing anything not useful, that will not reduce

the dangers that are threatening us," he said.

Israel has withheld reacting to the Iraqi missile attacks so far, heeding American pleas that an Israeli entry into the war could weaken the resolve of the Arab contingents to the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq.

Foreign Minister David Levy, in a speech to American Jewish leaders, said "you ought to know that when Israel decides to act it will be after all hope is lost and all aspects weighed."

Israel's leading dailies carried front-page stories and editorials about Mr. Cheney's comments in Washington Sunday.

Mr. Cheney said "there is a distinct possibility that (Iraq) may eventually begin to fire Scuds with chemical warheads. That's a threat, not only to our forces in Saudi Arabia, but to civilian populations there and in Israel as well."

Oil spill

(Continued from page 1)

"We appeal to the international public opinion and organisations that have dedicated themselves to the protection of the environment, to raise their voices and make the utmost efforts against these crimes," it said.

"Our forces and technical teams are now trying to extinguish the fire by all means and halt the oil flow and lessen the consequences of the U.S. crime," the spokesman concluded.

Earlier, Iraqi Health Minister Abdul Salam Mohammed Saeed was reported to have sent a message to the World Health Organisation seeking help in which he said that an allied attack on two Iraqi oil tankers in the Gulf last week had resulted in a slick in the waterway.

Dr. Saeed referred to previous letters he had sent to WHO warning that "the presence of forces of the United States and its allies in the Arabian Gulf region raises the possibility that environmental and ecological damage to human life might occur."

"Recent event have confirmed the soundness of our predictions," he said.

"U.S. forces and their allies have attacked Iraqi tankers transporting oil. This has led to the leakage of large quantities of oil, causing a serious environmental threat to human health," Dr. Saeed said.

The allies have reported hitting a hovercraft and a tanker in the Gulf last week, but they claimed the tanker was empty.

Allied military action may have dramatically cut the flow of crude oil feeding the giant slick but some oil is still seeping slowly into the Gulf, industry sources said.

They said planes flying over the discharge buoy at Kuwait's main offshore terminal early Monday reported that the stream of oil had not stopped completely.

"It seems to be slowing down and clearing up — the oil is coming up in globes instead of a steady stream," one source said.

"We can't tell if it's just leftover crude seeping from the pipe or whether something was missed... we will not be able to make a final evaluation until after another day or so," he said.

Acting on the advice of Kuwaiti petroleum engineers, the U.S. military Saturday sent F-111 bombers to destroy outlet pipes feeding the terminal 20 kilometres off the coast of Minz Al Ahmadi in Kuwait.

Water, water everywhere

By Mark Fritz
The Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — Oil made the Gulf states rich, but water keeps them alive. Now, two precious fluids that don't mix are on a collision course, a fearsome prospect in a parched land.

The millions of gallons of oil that Iraq was allegedly pumping into the Gulf may have been halted when allied warplanes bombed a Kuwaiti pipeline on Sunday, U.S. military officials said.

But environmentalists say so much crude has already poured into the waterway that an unstoppable ecological catastrophe is now unfolding, one that may take 20 years to fix.

Fish and wildlife, however are on their own. The Gulf states are using the oil containment equipment in the region to keep the slick from tainting the treatment plants that make sea water fit to drink for arid nations.

Nearly two-thirds of the water that flows from faucets in the Gulf comes from desalination plants, sensitive treatment facili-

ties that distill and chemically treat Gulf water.

Officials in Saudi Arabia, which has 24 of the 30 desalination plants in the region, say they are confident they can lay enough oil booms and sprinkle enough chemical dispersal agents to keep the oil from the intake valves at the plants.

But environmentalists and industry experts say the potential threat is very real. High waves or heavy currents could splash oil over the booms.

"If oil gets into the intake, you could end up with oil in your drinking water," said Walter Vreeland, an environmental engineer who advises the island nation of Bahrain.

Peter Whitbread, who runs a 38-ship salvage operation out of Dubai, warned that due to high waves in the Gulf, oil booms may not catch all the crude.

The main oil slick, allegedly started by Iraqi forces at the Sea Island terminal off the coast of Kuwait, contains six to eight million barrels of oil and stretches over an area 56 kilometres long and 16 kilometres wide.

Secondary slicks bring its

length to about 135 kilometres. A Norwegian tanker capable of vacuuming crude has been dispatched to protect Saudi Arabia's critical desalination plant at Jubail.

The plant, the biggest in the world, processes 30 million gallons of drinking water a day and is expected to be threatened by the slick in about four days. It is the first of several in the spill's path.

The desalination plants are relatively new. For centuries, the six Gulf nations drew their water from the Dammam aquifer, the source of the artesian wells that supply the fabled oases of the desert.

With the oil boom in the 1970s, growing populations and spreading development sharply increased the demand for precious water. Experts warned that the hallowed aquifer was being hied dry and would run out in 10 to 50 years.

Belatedly, the Gulf states began using their wealth to build the web of desalination plants, which typically are built with hydroelectric generators that produce the bonus of electric

power. According to the Middle East Business Weekly, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman together have awarded more than one trillion dollars in contracts in the first half of 1990 for new power and desalination plants.

Abdul Wahab Dakkak, natural resources director for the Saudi meteorological and environmental protection agency, said most of the oil containment equipment was already in place to protect the existing plants.

"We'll be ready for any accident," he said.

But if the source of water is saved, many of the dolphins, turtles, fish, sea birds and other animals that rely on an untainted Gulf are certainly doomed.

"The sea will turn into a funeral parlor," Vreeland predicted.

Vreeland said it may take 10 painstaking years to clean up the mess once the slick runs its destructive course, and perhaps 20 years for wildlife to rebound. "It will be a massive undertaking," he said.

Powell first black American to reach U.S. military pinnacle

By Charles Aldinger
Reuter

WASHINGTON — When General Colin Powell explained in calm and measured tones how the allies meant to handle Iraq's army — "cut it off, then kill it" — it was just the latest headline entry in a long-running success story.

The 53-year-old four-star general, born in a New York City ghetto, rose through the ranks of the army to high White House duty and became the first black chairman of the joint chiefs of staff — America's number one military officer.

His selection by President George Bush in 1989 came as no surprise to anyone familiar with the glittering career of an officer who seemed to perfect blend of promotional flair, respected military acumen and recruitment poster looks.

"Powell appears to have fulfilled expectations as leader of the joint chiefs, a job with political and public relations dimensions. He has both engineered and helped to sell one of the fastest and most complicated U.S. military build-ups ever."

His nationally televised progress report on the Gulf war at a Pentagon briefing last Wednesday provided a perfect example of Powell's gift for putting U.S. goals into clear, unemotional but quotable words.

The question was how the Western-Arab coalition would deal with the half-million-man Iraqi force occupying Kuwait.

"Our strategy is to go after this army is very, very simple," he said. "First, we're going to cut it off. Then, we're going to kill it." That succinct remark from such an authoritative figure gave many a U.S. newspaper an easy headline.

Powell cautions against expectations of quick victory in the Gulf war. But in five months he has overseen the flying and shipping of more than 475,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors and airmen to

face Iraq, and he is also responsible for the fate of some 100 U.S. warships and 1,800 warplanes in the region.

"There is a time for talking and giving political advice," Powell likes to say. "But when the decision is made and the orders come down, just do it."

The tall, charismatic officer seemed destined for glory before he gained prominence as President Ronald Reagan's national security adviser in the late 1980s.

Powell was so well thought of, in fact, that some politicians recommended him to be Bush's 1988 Republican running mate. Some felt he could one day become America's first black president.

At the Pentagon, he got high marks for presiding over the December, 1989, U.S. invasion in Panama — a sensational operation to its own right that now seems paltry next to the Gulf buildup and war.

As chief military adviser to Bush, Powell has also helped carve deep cuts in Pentagon budgets compelled by economic pressures and the diminishing of the Soviet cold war military menace. He has often put housing and schools ahead of guns and ammunition for the troops and their families.

The son of a seamstress and a shipping clerk, both Jamaican immigrants, Powell grew up in the poor and tough south Bronx section of New York City, graduated from a local college and became an army officer through the reserve officer training corps programme.

He has admitted he was not a bookworm and scraped by with poor grades at the City College of New York. But after he became a lieutenant in 1958 this was quickly overshadowed by his easygoing manner and a reputation for getting things done.

Powell served two combat tours in Vietnam where he was decorated for pulling troops to safety after his helicopter crashed



and burned. He caught the eye of Washington power brokers when he served as a White House fellow, a programme that brings high-achieving young people to Washington each year to work in the top echelons of government.

Powell took part in the programme in 1971 and was assigned to the office of management of budget where he impressed both Caspar Weinberger, then its director and later Reagan's defence secretary, and Frank Carlucci, Weinberger's deputy.

He worked again for Weinberger at the Pentagon from 1983 to 1986 and then became Reagan's national security adviser — even though Powell had said he thought a military man should not do the job.

A Powell aide explained the apparent contradiction by saying his boss "feels the president has a right to ask anyone he wants to the job. The president asked him and he responded to the president's wishes."

Powell, married with a grown son and two daughters, was given overwhelming Senate approval when Bush nominated him as joint chiefs of staff chairman in late 1989.

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AC Milan coach sends warning to Van Basten

By Reuters

AC MILAN coach Arrigo Sacchi, concerned about the European Cup champions' recent form in the Italian League, appears to be losing patience with Dutch striker Marco Van Basten.

Van Basten, European Footballer of the Year in 1988 and 1989, has not scored a league goal for Milan since November and was absent Sunday in their 1-1 draw at Genoa. A week earlier Milan lost 2-0 to newly-promoted Parma.

"The best thing about (Sunday's) match was the humility with which champions like (Franco) Baresi and (Ruud) Gullit got stuck in and fought for every ball," Sacchi told reporters.

The comment was widely interpreted as a thinly-veiled message to the Dutchman, who has missed two consecutive games and last week criticised the team's "predictable" play.

"Sacchi's compliments to Baresi and Gullit become messages for Van Basten," the Gazzetta dello Sport said. "A message for Van Basten," echoed the rival Corriere dello Sport.

The coach will be no calmer on hearing the news from France that Marseille, Milan's quarter-final opponents in the European Cup in March, had thrashed Nantes 6-0 in the league.

That, and their 7-0 hammering of Lyon two weeks ago, showed what a brilliant attacking team Marseille have become.

But newly-appointed Belgian coach Raymond Goethals said he was still worried about defence. "I am concentrating on building up our security at the back and on having a well organised defence in view of our matches with Milan," he said.

If Van Basten wanted a model for humility, then he need look no further than Juventus midfielder Roberto Baggio.

The most expensive player in the world, Baggio scored a sparkling double in the Turin team's 5-0 home defeat of Parma and then cautioned against increased title expectations.

"This isn't the time to start talking about winning the title,"

First let us put together a good series of results," he said after the team closed on leaders Internazionale, who were surprisingly held 1-1 at home to second to bottom Cagliari.

Inter are now one point clear at the top, with Juventus, AC Milan and Sampdoria level-pegging for second place.

Baggio's goals also put him level with Inter's German World Cup Captain Lothar Matthaus as top league goalscorer.

Brazilian Julio Cesar put Juventus ahead with a 24th minute free kick — which Italian television, ever enamoured of statistics, estimated was travelling at 104 kph.

Spanish League leaders Barcelona, playing to a near-capacity crowd in their Non Camp Stadium, produced a notable second-half performance to trounce local rivals Espanol 5-2 Sunday.

European Soccer

Jose Bakero and Denmark's Michael Laudrup both scored twice as the leaders, held 1-1 at half-time, maintained their four-point lead over Atletico Madrid, who beat Valencia 2-0 Saturday.

Espanol had looked capable of winning the Catalan Derby in the first half despite, falling behind to Laudrup's first effort from the penalty spot in the 32nd minute.

Cesar Mendicino surprised Barcelona goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta five minutes later to level the scores, but striker Bakero's two goals in the 47th and 53rd minutes put an end to the visitors' hopes.

Salinas increased Barcelona's lead in the 68th minute and a second Laudrup penalty made the score 5-1 three minutes later. Alex Garcia saved Espanol from total humiliation with an 85th-minute consolation goal.

Referee Antonio Martin was a busy man, showing nine yellow cards including five to the visitors.

Struggling champions Real Madrid maintained their fifth place in the league with a 3-0

away win against Castellon, who suffered their first home defeat this season.

A superior Real side scored only two minutes into the game when Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez converted a penalty after an Antonio Machado foul on Madrid striker Emilio Butragueno.

In the 39th minute, midfielder Javier Villarroya set up Butragueno for Real's second goal and Romanian George Hagi added a third with another penalty in the 69th minute.

Third-placed Osasuna beat visitors Real Valladolid 2-1. Valladolid took the lead in the 22nd minute through Gregorio Foncea but the home side responded in the second half with two goals by striker Jose Ciganda.

Sevilla kept their fourth position in the table with a 3-0 home win against Real Oviedo. Ramon Vazquez, Chilean Ivan Zamorano and Austria's Anton Polster were the men on target.

Frank Farina scored four goals on Sunday as Club Brugge of Belgium overwhelmed local rivals Cercle Brugge 10-0 in the Belgian first division.

Club Brugge, the title holders, are in third place after 21 matches behind Ghent and Anderlecht.

The top nine teams in the Portuguese Soccer League all drew their weekend matches, leaving champions Porto still one point clear of Benfica at the top of the table.

Porto drew 1-1 at Boavista after taking the lead through a Jose Sampaio penalty in the 47th minute. They held their advantage until four minutes from time when defender Jorge Couto lost the ball to Boavista's Brazilian import Marlon Brando, who slotted the equaliser.

Benfica's Swedish midfielder Jonas Thern, out of action recently due to injury, scored in the first minute of his side's visit to Penafiel. But the Lisbon side faded and could not stop Penafiel's Abel Leveille with a 61st minute header.

Third-placed Sporting, six points behind Porto, fought a tough away match against Salgueiros which ended goalless.

Girardelli well-placed to win skiing title

SAALBACH-HINTERGLEMM, Austria (AP) — Kristian Ghedina was fastest in the downhill portion of the men's combined event Monday at the World Alpine Skiing Championships, but two-time defending champion Mare Girardelli was well-positioned to win the title.

Ghedina's time of 1 minute, 42.52 seconds was .9 faster than that of Switzerland's William Besse, while Jan Einar Thorsen of Norway was third in 1:43.55.

But none of the three is strong in the slalom that will complete the combined event Wednesday. That race will count more heavily than the downhill to determine the overall winner.

Luxembourg's Girardelli, who won the slalom title last week, and Austrian Guenther Mader were in the best position to take the combined.

Girardelli finished the 2,655-metre Schneekristall course, which had a drop of 825 metres, in 1:44.68. Mader, twice a combined bronze medalist at the World Championships, had a time of 1:44.56.

Though both were more than two seconds behind Ghedina, the Italian dismissed his chances of victory.

"Girardelli is two seconds behind today, but he is too strong in slalom. He's out of my reach," Ghedina said. "I can hope for a bronze medal, but I don't really think I can win gold or silver."

Defending Olympic champion Hubert Strolz finished in a disappointing 1:46.31.

Franz Heinzer, the Swiss skier who won Sunday's downhill race, did not participate in Monday's combined downhill.

On Sunday, Heinzer overcame a history of frustrating fourth-place finishes by deciding it would either be a medal this time or nothing at all.

The Swiss skier took all the risks on a steep, treacherous course and finally came up with the big one — the gold in the downhill, the most difficult and glamorous Alpine skiing event.

Heinzer, 28, had finished fourth in three previous World Championships. He had a slow start but then blazed down the 2,990-metre course in a winning time of 1 minute, 54.91 seconds.

"I've been four times in the World Championships and it's absolutely marvelous that I won today," Heinzer said. "It's a wonderful feeling."

"My aim today was just to get a medal and out to be fourth again," he said. "Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would win the gold medal."

"When I went to the start, I thought today either I would be fast or I would fall. I was ready to race all out, to take risks."

"My greatest fear was to finish fourth again," said Heinzer, who just missed medals in 1982, 1985 and 1987.

Marseille president banned for 12 months, may quit

PARIS (R) — Marseille's millionaire President Bernard Tapie was banned for 12 months by a soccer disciplinary body Monday for "causing serious harm to sporting morale and for insulting referees."

French soccer's National Disciplinary Committee banned the controversial Marseille boss from all official soccer roles. It suspended the final four of the 12 months.

Tapie was also told he was not allowed in the dressing rooms or on the touchline during matches.

Marseille's Director-General Jean-Pierre Bernes was also banned for six months for damaging sporting morale.

Tapie has been under investigation by the committee since a

public row last year with then Bordeaux President Claude Bez, involving bribery allegations and counter-allegations.

At the time, Tapie wrote a threatening letter to referee Gerard Bignot, who officiated at Bordeaux's 3-0 home win over Marseille.

The committee fined Bez 50,000 francs (\$10,000) and recommended that he be suspended for three years if he wanted to return to soccer.

Bez, who publicly accused Tapie of trying to fix matches, quit the Bordeaux presidency in November last year after being charged with fraud in connection with the club's huge financial deficit.

The committee said: "Mr.

Tapie is guilty of causing serious harm to sporting morale and for insulting referees, for offering them verbal threats and for trying to intimidate them."

Tapie, who has poured a small fortune into Marseille in an attempt to make them European Champions, had said he would appeal against any sanction by the committee.

Bez also accused Tapie and Bernes of trying to buy players to throw matches in which Marseille were involved. His allegations were never proved.

The disciplinary committee's findings follow a bleak period for French soccer in which 11 people, including Bez, were charged with criminal offences late last year after a series of financial scandals involving the Bordeaux and Toulon clubs.

Bernes, contacted by Reuters by telephone, declined to comment on the committee's verdict. The punishment on Bez was handed out for "making unfounded accusations."

Tapie, a parliamentary deputy with serious political ambitions and a businessman with wide interests who last year took over the Adidas sportswear firm, is no stranger to controversy.

His abrasive and impulsive behaviour has led him to brushes with soccer authorities and the media.

Last year he was officially reprimanded by the European Football Union (UEFA) for making a false bribery claim against a referee.

The reprimand came after a furious Tapie insisted Belgian official Marcel Van Langenhove had been bribed to help Benfica into the European Cup final.

The Portuguese club beat Marseille in the semifinal with a goal which was scored with the assistance of a player's arm. Van Langenhove was later officially cleared.

This season he decided to appoint German World Cup-winning team boss Franz Beckenbauer above successful coach Gerard Gili.

Gili quit to join Bordeaux and, as Marseille's form suffered, an impatient Tapie effectively supplanted Beckenbauer three months later by taking on former Bordeaux trainer Raymond Goethals as coach.

Tapie has also banned journalists whose reports offend him from attending team training sessions.

Becker to go for rare Grand Slam collection

MELBOURNE (R) — Boris Becker, feeling slightly uneasy in his new role of world number one, has his sights set on completing a rare tennis Grand Slam collection.

Becker became one of the few modern champions to win three of the four Grand Slams when he dethroned Czechoslovak Ivan Lendl to win the Australian Open 1-0, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 Sunday and took over as world number one from Stefan Edberg.

Now, only the French Open eludes the 23-year-old German in the quarter achieved only by Rod Laver in the open era.

The great Australian captured all four men's singles titles in 1969, and nobody since then has acquired them in a whole career, let alone a single year. Laver, aside, only seven men, including Becker, have won three in the open era.

Among Becker's contemporaries still regularly on the circuit, only Lendl and Sweden's Mats Wilander have won three of the four — with Wimbledon the prize both still lack.

Becker has taken three titles on the grass of Wimbledon, where he became the youngest men's winner at 17 in 1985, but has never won on clay, the French Open surface at Roland Garros.

He plans to play his exile "home" tournament of Monte Carlo and the Italian Open in Rome in preparation for the French Open, which begins at the end of May. He was semifinalist at the French in 1987 and 1989.

"Of course it's going to be very important for me to do well there, but especially maybe to win one clay-court tournament finally. Hopefully the clay-court tournament (French Open)," he said after his dramatic win over Lendl.

Lendl, who skipped the French Open last year in his failed attempt to concentrate on winning Wimbledon, also plans to return to Roland Garros.

"If I feel I have a chance to win I'm going to play the French," Lendl said, form and fitness permitting.

It's something which is a tough decision because last year I didn't play the French and then I didn't

win Wimbledon and everybody said it backfired.

"Now if I go and play the French tournament and I don't win the French and I don't win Wimbledon, everyone will say it backfired again."

Lendl, who won the first of three French Open titles in 1984, hopes he will be able to challenge Becker and Edberg for the number one spot he regained by winning the 1989 Australian Open but ceded to the Swede last August.

"I think I have a good chance of challenging them again," the 30-year-old Czechoslovak said. "I hope I can get there myself and keep it for a while. What's the point of getting there if you lose right away?"

Becker, who fled the stadium and went for a run in the park to be alone after becoming number one Sunday, reckons it will take a long time to get used to his new exalted status.

He wonders if he will go the way of Wilander, who slid down the rankings after reaching number one.

"I am also similar to Mats, who is very extreme. I have to be careful there and I also have a little fear," Becker said.

"I am not the type of person who likes to be number one for five years. I would like to be it, but then I would like to move on in my life to do something else. So I have a fear of that and I hope I can be strong enough to stay another two years."

He also wishes he could spend less time talking to the press, which he says gets on his nerves.

"To tell you the truth, I would like to be a quite private man with my little kids, a wife, and have a quiet life, out all the time being in the front line," he said.

Seventeen-year-old Monica Seles stepped up her challenge to Steffi Graf for the women's number one ranking by beating Czechoslovakia's Jana Novotna, quarter-final conqueror of the German, in Saturday's final.

The Yugoslav, youngest women's French Open champion last year, claimed a similar distinction in Australia. Graf, who won all the Grand Slams in 1988, now holds none of the titles.

Woking bows out with loss to Everton

LONDON (R) — Woking, the only minor league club to reach the fourth round of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup, bowed out Sunday with a 1-0 loss to Everton.

Arsenal and Leeds, two of the country's most successful teams this season, will have to replay after drawing 0-0 at Highbury.

Woking, who play in a league two grades below the English fourth division, fought bravely in the first half, but Neil McDonald was unlucky not to put Everton ahead in the 37th minute when he struck a post with the goalkeeper beaten.

The first division club scored the decisive goal 14 minutes into the second half, Kevin Sheedy ending Woking's dream, meeting a cross from the left on the half volley and scoring from 10 metres.

Tun Buzaglo, Woking's hat-trick hero in the third round, hit the outside of a post but Everton's class saw them through.

Having conceded home advantage in the draw the south of England club can at least contemplate a handsome pay-day. The crowd at Goodison was nearly 35,000.

In a full-blooded affair at High-

bury, league leaders Arsenal pressed Leeds for most of the second half but failed to break the deadlock.

Perry Groves had three fair shots on target for Arsenal in the first half but England international Alan Smith came closest with 15 minutes left, ex-Arsenal man John Lukic making an important save.

The visitors had had their best chance two minutes from time when Gary McAllister's block-buster from the edge of the penalty area was punched over the bar by David Seaman.

Liverpool will face city rivals Everton for a place in the quarter-finals of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup if they beat Brighton in Wednesday's fourth round replay.

Only three clear-cut ties materialised in Sunday's fifth round draw but bolders Manchester United were involved in one of them — a tough trip to follow first division Norwich.

League leaders Arsenal or fourth round replay opponents Leeds go to Shrewsbury, a difficult test for either top division side following the third division club's elimination of former win-

ners Wimbledon Saturday.

Third division Crewe, in the fifth round for the first time in 103 years, visit the winners of Wednesday's replay between division side still in contention, face either Millwall or Sheffield Wednesday, both second division.

Tottenham are away to Portsmouth where Guy Whittingham hit four goals in the second division side's 5-1 fourth round thrashing of Bournemouth.

Liverpool, who conceded first place in the championship to Arsenal a week ago, were installed as cup favourites by London bookmakers after the draw.

The ties will be played on Feb. 16-17.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

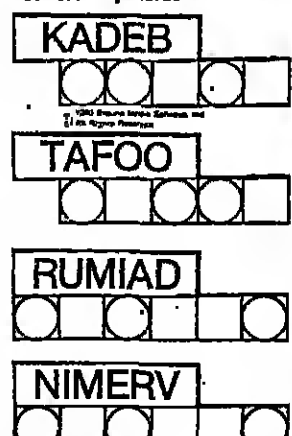


"If we chew breakfast for 10 hours without swallowing, we can cut our grocery bill by 70 percent!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

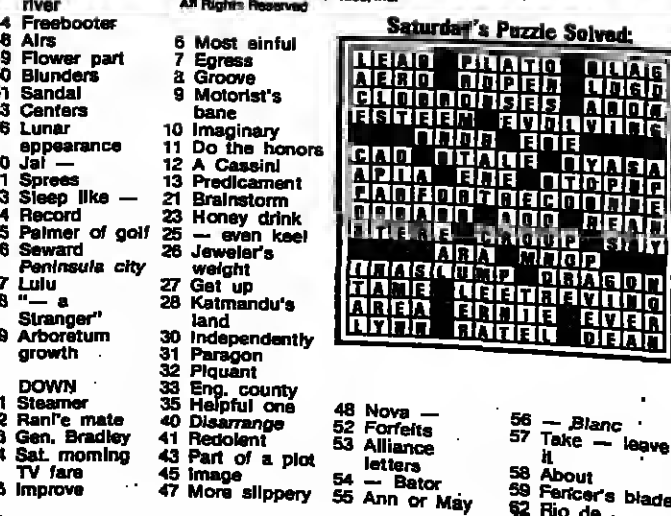
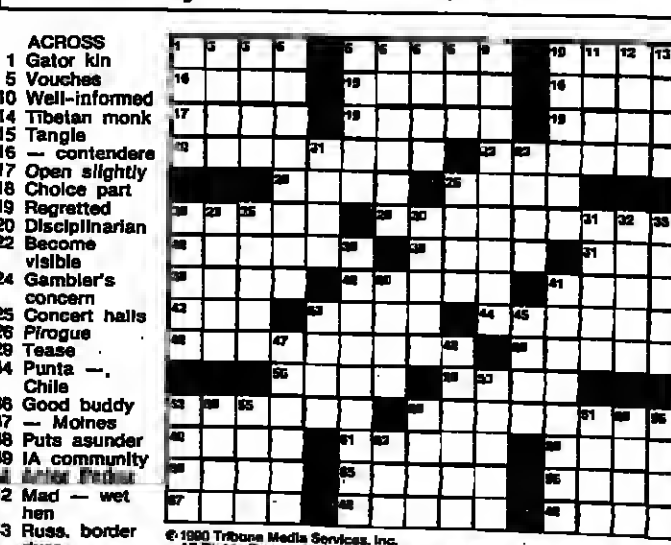
Answer: KADEB TAFOO RUMIAD NIMERV

Saturday's Jumbles: PUTTY GROIN DEVICE MASCOT

Answer: The opportunist has no use for friends — HE CAN'T "USE"

THE Daily Crossword

by I. Miller



Asia achieve record cereal production in '90

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Asian nations are gathering record cereal harvests after an excellent monsoon season in 1990, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) says.

The main 1990 rice crop, now being harvested, looks plentiful in the region with the main exceptions of Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, said the December issue of the U.N. agency's Food Outlook report.

Bangladesh is forecast to have a record rice crop. Output in Burma and China is expected to exceed the previous year's levels. Output in Pakistan is forecast at 5.2 million tonnes, an eight per cent increase over the previous year. Output in Japan is likely to be about the same high level as the previous year despite the lowering of support prices and a rice land diversion programme, the report said.

The report estimated that

Asian countries produced 480.1 million tonnes of rice in 1990 — more than 92 per cent of the global output of \$19.1 million tonnes.

It estimated that Asian countries produced a total of 203 million tonnes of wheat in 1990, a six per cent increase over the previous year.

Record or near-record wheat harvests are expected in China, of 96 million tonnes in India, of 53 million tonnes in Turkey and in Pakistan.

The Asian region's output of coarse grains in 1990 is estimated at 175 million tonnes, four per cent above the previous year, the report said.

A record crop of coarse grains is expected in China, Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Pakistan and Vietnam also had better harvests than the previous year while output recovered sharply in Iraq, Syria and Turkey.

China sets economic targets for year 2000

BEIJING (R) — China Monday announced its economic targets until the end of the century, stating that the total value of its economy in the year 2000 will be four times that of 1980.

The value of all goods and services or gross national product (GNP) in China, the world's most populous nation, will grow at about six per cent a year, according to a central committee of the Chinese Communist Party document published by the official New China News Agency.

GNP grew at 4.4 per cent last year.

The proposals, giving specific numbers for China's 10-year programme (1991-2000) and eighth five-year plan (1991-1995), were set at a major meeting at the end of last year but released only

Monday.

"People's living standards will improve from just having enough to eat and wear to a state of leading a fairly comfortable life," the document said.

Specific targets include:

- Raising yearly grain output to 500 million tonnes in 2000. It was 420 million tonnes last year.
- Raising coal output to 1.4 billion tonnes in 2000 from 1.09 billion in 1990.
- Raising electricity output to 1.1 trillion kilowatt hours in 2000 from 615 billion last year.
- Raising crude oil output to 145 million tonnes in 1995 from 138 million tonnes in 1990.
- Raising steel output to more than 80 million tonnes by the end of the century from 68.8 million last year.

Gulf war stops \$100m of Indonesian farm exports

JAKARTA (AP) — Indonesia has had to stop exports of agricultural commodities worth \$100 million to Middle East countries since the outbreak of the Gulf war, a senior official said Monday.

"The termination of the exports, representing about three per cent of our entire exports of agriculture commodities, constitutes the direct impact of the Gulf war," Agriculture Minister Wardoyo told a parliamentary hearing.

"The indirect impact is the increase of transportation and insurance fees to and from Europe," he added. He did not elaborate.

Indonesia has exported tea, coffee, rubber, fish, meat and vegetables to the Middle East.

Saudi British Bank raises net profit

BAHRAIN (R) — The Riyadh-based Saudi British Bank said its net profit for 1990 rose to 192 million riyals, up on the previous year of 123 million despite the Gulf crisis caused by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

A bank statement said gross operating income before provisions rose to 424.7 million riyals against 336.1 in 1989. Operating expenses rose to 207.2 million in 1990 from 187.3 the previous year.

Total assets rose 16 per cent at the end of 1990 to 14.578 billion riyals compared with 12.550 billion a year ago.

Provision for possible credit losses eased slightly to 25.4 million riyals in 1990 against 25.7 in 1989.

Egypt announces additional reforms

CAIRO (R) — Egypt unveiled sweeping measures to liberalise its economy Monday. The forceful departure from 30 years of rigid central planning is intended to clear the way for further Western debt relief for a key Gulf war ally.

The reforms, announced to parliament by Prime Minister Atef Sedki, include a partial currency floatation, a new sales tax, an overhaul of the public sector, urgent support for state-owned banks and the opening of new areas for private investment.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had demanded the reforms before considering a stand-by accord that would bring billions of dollars in debt relief and new loans.

"The basic policy of freeing the economy, which has been a firm policy since this government was formed, is to provide an appropriate atmosphere for production to take off," Sedki told parliament.

Sedki said the Egyptian pound could be traded freely. He gave no date for starting the new system but Western economists said the government would likely move quickly to avoid black market speculation.

One dollar currently buys 2.92 pounds at the official rate and around 3.10 pounds on the black market.

Economists said that because of cash infusions from Gulf Arab countries Cairo now had enough reserves to guarantee a steady pound for at least several months.

Oil and cotton exports, Suez Canal tolls and certain key imports would continue to be priced at an official rate close to the market rate, Sedki said. All other transactions would be made freely by banks and licensed money changers.

This official rate would be totally abolished within a year, completing the pound's floatation. Sedki said the transformation to a free economy would force the state to rely increasingly on taxes and fees for finance.

"Perhaps the most important of what the government will present within a short period is development of the present consumer tax to become a sales tax, this will all be introduced gradually over three years," he said.

Currency reform and the introduction of a sales tax have been the IMF's two main demands before an accord was signed.

Sedki raises estimate of Egypt's losses from Gulf war to \$13.7b

CAIRO (AP) — Unrest in the Gulf is costing Egypt as much as \$13.7 billion annually in lost revenues and additional expenditures, Prime Minister Atef Sedki said Monday.

This was more than double last September's estimate by Sedki of losses resulting from Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. The total then was about \$5.2 billion.

Sedki gave his updated tally in a policy speech before the People's Assembly, or parliament, elected almost two months ago.

In addition to the annual losses, Sedki said, assets left behind in Kuwait and Iraq by returning Egyptian expatriate workers have been estimated at \$18 billion.

This was at least 50 per cent higher than Sedki's September property estimate of \$10 billion to \$12 billion.

Sedki, an economist and the government's former auditor-general, gave this breakdown of annual losses:

- \$7 billion to \$8 billion in lost revenues from expatriate remittances, the Suez Canal, tourism and non-oil exports. These and oil exports are Egypt's top foreign exchange earners.
- \$5 billion to provide jobs for Egyptians returning from Kuwait, Iraq and other Gulf countries. He estimated the number at 670,000, of whom 100,000

came home before the Gulf war erupted on Jan. 17.

— About \$700 million in extra government expenditures, including the costs of workers' repatriation and upgraded security nationwide.

Government officials said earlier there were 200,000 Egyptian workers in Iraq and another 15,000 in Kuwait when the war broke out.

Egypt led Arab opposition to Iraq's conquest of Kuwait. It has sent 36,000 troops to Saudi Arabia and 2,500 to the United Arab Emirates to help defend against possible further Iraqi advances.

Despite the Gulf-related economic burdens, the crisis brought Egypt some relief.

The United States has forgiven Cairo's military debt of \$6.7 billion. The oil-rich Arab states in the Gulf region wrote off Egyptian debts totalling about \$7 billion.

The two exemptions, tokens of gratitude for Egypt's anti-Iraq stance, accounted for more than a quarter of the country's foreign debt.

Additionally, the so-called Group of Seven, comprising the leading industrialised nations, said last week its members were writing off one-third of Cairo's public debt to them. No figure

was given.

Egypt also has been promised more than \$1 billion in Gulf crisis aid from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Japan and West European countries.

The Suez Canal, one of Egypt's main sources of badly needed hard currency, is losing up to 30 per cent of its annual income as a result of the Gulf war.

The canal's chairman, Ezzat Adel, told the government-run Al Akhbar newspaper that the canal's losses in the first week of the war amounted to \$4 million and could increase if the number of ships transiting through the waterway continues to decline.

The interview was published in Monday's edition of the newspaper, a copy of which was obtained by the Associated Press.

The official said the traffic of oil tankers to and from the Gulf dwindled drastically since the outbreak of hostilities there on Jan. 17.

Last Tuesday, for the first time in 15 years, there was no oil tanker in the canal's northbound traffic from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean, Adel said.

Tankers ferrying oil to Europe are the canal's most important source of income.

The waterway's overall income for 1989 was \$1.1 billion. Figures for 1990 have not been released

yet.

Adel said an average of 16 ships now sail through the canal every week, down from 50 vessels before the war. He attributed the general decrease in traffic to a rise in insurance premiums on all ships bound to or from the Gulf, whether through the Suez Canal or southern Africa's Cape of Good Hope.

He said the new charges consist of 1.5 per cent the price of the vessel and 1.5 per cent the value of its cargo.

There are additional insurance charges for ships transiting through the canal. They vary between \$20,000 to \$30,000 depending on the size of the vessel and the nature of its shipment, Adel said.

He also spoke of security precautions taken by the government to protect the canal and said there is no danger of attacks or mine laying in the waterway.

After the war erupted, the government ordered a maximum military and police alert at all strategic locations which include the canal and the Aswan High Dam in southern Egypt.

Security agencies are paying special attention to cement ships in the canal to ensure that saboteurs do not sink them to block the waterway.

Wife of Jordanian outbids 15

Czechs buy shops in unique auction

PRAGUE — Czechoslovakia (AP) — The Czech government has begun auctioning off thousands of small state-owned businesses to private citizens, reaffirming its drive toward a market economy.

A total of 17 grocery shops and electronic stores were last week offered up to some 200 prospective buyers who gathered at a Prague auction hall amid reporters and onlookers ready to pay an admission fee to see the unfamiliar event.

Tomas Jezek, Czech minister of privatisation, hailed the auction as an important event and said the move was another in the drive to restore "the country's economic health."

"Today, we hope to lay the foundations for a prosperous private sector," Jezek said as he opened the auction.

Czechoslovakia's industry was nationalised after the communist takeover in 1918, virtually abolishing the private sector.

Privatisation is one of the cornerstones of a plan devised by Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus to transform the largely stagnant system of central planning into a Western-style market economy.

The sale of some 100,000 small businesses, the first step in a process of privatisation, should

be completed by the end of the year.

In first-round auctioning, only Czechoslovak citizens and those who have left the country after 1918 were allowed to participate.

Should a shop fail to find a buyer, a second-round auction will be announced, with access given to foreigners as well.

While the auction was aimed at draining some of the people's substantial savings, estimated at 300 billion Czechoslovak crowns (\$10.7 billion) into state coffers, potential foreign interest could not be ruled out.

"I am sure that a large part of those who came to bid today were acting in proxy of somebody else who perhaps wants to set up a foreign-based chain of food shops in Prague," a member of one of the regional privatisation committees said, requesting anonymity.

The first grocery store auctioned was sold for 580,000 crowns (\$20,700), a sum inaccessible to ordinary Czechoslovak citizens, whose average monthly income is 3,100 crowns (\$121).

Ilena Dundanova, a 21-year-old postal clerk, defeated some 15 more bidders in a five-minute auction. She is married to a Jordanian businessman who in-

tends to import food from Turkey, Jordan, Greece and Cyprus.

Meanwhile, Czechoslovakia could soon join other East European nations with serious oil shortages if the Soviet Union fails to fulfil delivery contracts, officials have said.

The Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia's sole supplier of crude, first delayed and then slashed deliveries by more than 20 per cent to 13 million tonnes last year from 16 million tonnes in 1989.

Citing production problems and economic malaise, Moscow in December promised to supply Czechoslovakia with 7.5 million tonnes of oil for 1991.

Extra supplies were to be negotiated separately with individual Soviet republics, but Czechoslovak authorities say they are doubtful even the pledged deliveries will be made in full.

Deputy Premier Vaclav Vales told reporters that Soviet oil contracted for in January was overdue. If the supply was to dry up

altogether, Vales acknowledged that "we could go on for maybe another month, then rationing would be introduced, and then we would see."

Rocketing world oil prices due to the Gulf crisis and a shortfall in Soviet crude supplies have hit hard as East Europe's economies struggle to switch from ponderous central planning to free-market principles.

Czechoslovakia will trade engineering and consumer goods for two million tonnes of Soviet oil this year, and will pay for the remaining 5.5 million tonnes at world market prices in hard currency, Vales said.

He said the country needed a minimum of 12 million tonnes of oil to keep its industries running at 1990 levels. That included at least nine million tonnes for heat.

"Further talks will be very complicated," Vales said, adding that there were "few guarantees" the Soviets would deliver even the promised supplies.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

TOKYO — Most players were idle ahead of Tuesday's start of trading for February accounts. Brokers said the market was also watching how overseas markets would begin the week. The Nikkei index fell 3.81 points, or 0.02 per cent, to 23,569.44.

SYDNEY — The stock market was closed Monday for the Australia Day holiday. The All Ordinaries index closed 27.0 points higher on Friday at 1,295.6.

HONG KONG — Profit-taking dragged the Hang Seng index down through the 3,200 support but selective buying cushioned the retreat and the index ended 8.07 down at 3,198.29.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed with widespread gains after fairly active trading. The Straits Times rose 22.09 points or 1.8 per cent to close at 1,260.84 from Friday's close of 1,238.75.

BOMBAY — Market closed.

FRANKFURT — The 30-share DAX index edged up 0.63 of a point to 1,382.68. Analysts say a significant recovery in German share prices is unlikely while the Gulf war continues.

ZURICH — Sentiment improved on slightly easier interest rates and Economics Minister Jean-Pascal Delamuraz's call on Saturday for easier monetary policy to revive the slowing economy. The all-share SPI index rose 7.4 points to 909.8.

PARIS — The CAC-40 index recovered from morning losses and ended 2.69 points higher at 1,565.69. "The market remains in a wait-and-see mood," a dealer said.

LONDON — Slim turnover reflected continued investor caution and lack of developments in the Gulf. The FTSE 100 index gained 15 points to 2118.

NEW YORK — Trading was choppy but sentiment was lifted by a lack of Gulf war news. At 1746 GMT the Dow Jones industrial average was up 9.65 to 2,669.06.

AMMAN RATES EXCHANGE

Monday, January 28, 1991	
Central Bank official rates	
	Buy Sell
U.S. dollar	660.0 660.0
Pound Sterling	1302.2 1310.0
Deutschemark	246.7 249.4
Swiss franc	322.6 330.8
French franc	131.4 132.2
Japanese yen (for 100)	302.0 305.0
Dutch guilder	396.2 398.6
Swedish crown	119.4 120.1
Italian lire (for 100)	59.4 59.8
Belgian franc (for 10)	216.8 218.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.	
One Sterling	1.9615/25
One U.S. dollar	1.1610/20
	1.4870/77
	1.6750/60
	1.2611/18
	30.62/67
	5.0500/0550
	1117/1118
	132.20/30
	5.5600/50
	5.8200/50
	5.7260/10
One ounce of gold	374.60/375.10
	U.S. dollar
	Canadian dollar
	Deutschemark
	Dutch guilders
	Swiss francs
	Belgian francs
	French francs
	Italian lire
	Japanese yen
	Swedish crowns
	Norwegian crowns
	Danish crowns
	U.S. dollars

TODAY AT

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

LAMBADA

Performances: 3:30, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

Tom Cruise
in
LOSIN' IT

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

TOTAL
RECALL

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOM

TOTAL
RECALL

Performance: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238

PLAZA

ANGEL
ENFORCERS

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL KHALDA, AMMAN

Experienced Mathematics graduates are required to teach Mathematics full-time to students from Grade 5 through to Grade 11 (upto and including International General Certificate of Secondary Education level).

Applicants must be able to teach Maths in the English medium to highly-motivated, intelligent students, and should be available to start work immediately.

Those interested are invited to contact the school on 816893/4 to arrange an interview. Application forms are available from the secretary in the school Administration Department.

AVISO A LOS CIUDADANOS COLOMBIANOS RESIDENTES EN JORDANIA

El Consulado Honorario de Colombia en Jordania informa a los ciudadanos colombianos que el Gobierno colombiano desea tener completa información sobre su lonia residente en Jordania. Para lo arriba mencionado, deberán registrarse aquellas personas que no se han inscrito anteriormente en el Consulado Honorario de Colombia, Edificio del Fine, Calla Al-Hussein Bin Ali, Jabal Ammán, Teléfono 652688, para tener contacto con ellos en caso de necesidad.

FAVOR DAR MAYOR IMPORTANCIA AL CONTENIDO DE ESTE AVISO.

ELIA C. NUQUEL
Cónsul H. de Colombia

Soviet troops close Lithuanian customs posts Police jeer Latvian president, urge interior minister to quit

RIGA, USSR (AP) — Several hundred Latvian policemen jeered the republic's president Monday and called for the resignation of their boss, Interior Minister Alois Vaznis.

The police officers jammed a skylit auditorium at the University of Latvia for a four-hour meeting with the Baltic republic's leaders, including Vaznis, President Anotolijs Gorbunovs and Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis.

The raucous meeting reflected a deep split in police ranks between those supporting Latvia's pro-independence government and those loyal to the national government in Moscow and the anti-independence branch of the Communist Party in Riga.

That split was aggravated on Jan. 20 when elite "black beret" riot police loyal to Moscow attacked the Latvian Interior Ministry, killing four people, including two regular police officers.

Many of the estimated 500-800 police officers in the auditorium were ethnic Russians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians who are leery of Latvia's move toward independence. They whistled and booed when Vaznis said he had tried to depoliticise the police force, which is part of the Interior Ministry.

On Friday, a similar gathering of about 500 Latvian police officers took a unanimous vote of no-confidence in Vaznis, who has supported the pro-independence forces and allowed volunteers to build barricades in the streets of

Riga, the republic's capital. The barricades went up the night of Jan. 13 when Soviet paratroopers stormed the central television tower in neighbouring Lithuania, killing 14 people.

When Gorbunovs said the barricades had been erected spontaneously by the Latvian people to defend against a possible Soviet attack, the auditorium burst into cheering. The 43-year-old president was unable to continue until a senior police officer stood up and called for order.

Gorbunovs said a "political battle" was taking place in Latvia between the pro-independence Popular Front, which supports him, and the Communist Party. The recent shootings, he said, show that "this battle is now being fought not only with political means, but also with violence."

He called for all political groups in Latvia to renounce the use of force.

The policemen cheered and applauded when a leader of the pro-Moscow faction, police Col. Nikolai S. Goncharenko, called for the immediate replacement of Vaznis.

Godmanis, the prime minister, defended Vaznis as a "professional" in an effort to deflect Goncharenko's suggestion. He invited anyone seeking the post of interior minister to apply in writing, but he did not appear to be serious about replacing Vaznis.

Meanwhile, Soviet troops seized two Lithuanian customs

posts and ordered them shut permanently, a government spokesman said Monday.

The troops fired shots, confiscated documents, broke windows and beat several customs officers in the Sunday night assault near the Byelorussian border, spokesman Andrius Azubalis said.

The troops, numbering about a dozen and wearing the black berets of the Soviet Interior Ministry police, entered customs posts in the villages of Medininkai and Lavariskes, about 45 kilometres south of Vilnius, Azubalis said.

After warning the customs officers not to reopen, the Soviets withdrew, he said. Several workers were roughed up, but did not require hospitalisation, the spokesman said.

Azubalis said the assault was a "provocation" designed to push the customs workers, who are unarmed, into obtaining weapons. "It would provide a very good pretense to attack," he said.

Only three people were staffing the Medininkai Post, with another four manning the customs shed at Lavariskes, Azubalis said.

About 30 customs checkpoints were created after the Baltic republic declared independence last March to prevent non-Lithuanians from taking scarce goods to other Soviet republics.

Earlier Sunday, a Soviet army captain wounded a Lithuanian at a military checkpoint, Azubalis said. Lithuanian officials said

they have begun keeping a record of brutality inflicted on their citizens.

In a separate development, rebel Estonia's Communist Party chief said Sunday he supported the drive for independence in the Soviet Baltic republics.

"We recognise that the Baltic republics have to be sovereign, independent and free," Vaino Valjas told Reuters in an interview.

But the former Soviet ambassador and one-time ally of Gorbachev said the break with Moscow should come through negotiations.

"We must be political realists... the way to resolve this must be through negotiation and dialogue to achieve a treaty which will gradually realise all our intentions and hopes," he said during a break in a party congress this weekend in Tallinn, the republic's capital.

In Moscow, deputy mayor Monday condemned the Kremlin's plan for joint military-police patrols of major Soviet cities as a step toward a state of emergency and said city officials would oppose the move.

Sergei Stankevich said at a news conference that city officials have formally requested more information about the order by the Interior and Defence Ministries but have not received an answer.

It is an unprecedented order, Stankevich said. "Practically, it will change the political order by introducing elements of a state of emergency."

More Baltic draftees desert Soviet army

TALLINN, USSR (AP) — A young Estonian soldier serving 8,000 kilometres from the Baltics told his commanding officer he would not take the Soviet army oath, walked out of his barracks and headed for home.

Now, 18 months and several escape attempts later, twenty-year-old Tanel Kapper has finally made it back to the Estonian capital from his base near the Chinese border and is ready to fight the Red Army for the republic's independence.

Desertions and draft-dodging induced Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov on Jan. 7 to order a roundup in the Baltic republics. That campaign quickly turned into a bloody crackdown against the separatist Baltic governments that so far has cost at least 19 lives.

Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, are seeking independence from the Soviet Union. In 1940, Stalin forcibly incorporated the Baltic states, which were independent countries between the two world wars, into the Soviet Union.

Last year 7,500 Estonians were called up for the draft, but only 800 responded. In neighbouring Latvia, there are an estimated 10,000 draft dodgers and thousands more Lithuanians have de-

clined to serve. "There is absolutely nothing that would make me go back to that hell. I will stay here and fight," said Kapper, who lives in a forest near Tallinn.

"The Soviet army is one big concentration camp, a labour camp where people are exposed to extreme violence," said Anita Stankevich, director of the Latvian Women's League.

The Women's League was originally formed to promote women's rights. In 1989, it started collecting data on abuse in the Red Army. There are instances of young army recruits dying after only a few months of service.

No explanation for the deaths was given, but the corpses often showed signs of being beaten, Stankevich said. "We just couldn't accept any longer that our sons were coming back in coffins from the army," she said.

In 1990, all three Baltic republics adopted laws allowing draftees to do alternative service in hospitals, schools and local government facilities.

But after a bloody assault against the broadcast centre two weeks ago in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius left 14 dead, Baltic leaders advised all draft dodgers to leave their workplaces

and hide from Soviet troops.

In neighbouring Latvia, four people were killed on Jan. 20 when elite "black berets" of the Soviet Interior Ministry invaded the republic's police headquarters. Two others have also died in similar Latvian assaults this month.

Miks Rautzins, a 19-year-old Latvian, is hiding in the home of distant relatives in Riga. He said he would never serve in the Soviet army because it was the "wrong army."

"I think it's not the army I'm supposed to serve in. It's the occupation army and of course it's not safe," Rautzins said.

Rautzins' relative, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he was beaten with heavy-buckled leather belts when he served in the Soviet army.

Other former Soviet servicemen recounted how officers regularly sexually abused new recruits.

Kapper said new recruits were beaten and bullied in the middle of the night and two soldiers died mysteriously.

"One day I just opened the front door and walked out. I had had enough," he said.

Kapper was caught and arrested, but escaped and man-

aged to get to Irkutsk, a city 1,000 kilometres west of the base where he was stationed, before being apprehended again.

He managed to escape handcuffed by jumping from a moving train.

After managing to pick the lock with a piece of wire between his teeth, he fainted from injuries and exhaustion.

Cossack hunters found Kapper, nursed him, gave him money and clothes and he returned to Estonia.

Five months later he was arrested in Tallinn.

Kapper spent several months in prisons across the Soviet Union before being returned to his military unit in Chita, a city 300 kilometres north of the Chinese border.

"After they caught me, I told them I had left because it was hawking time near my home. They didn't like that," Kapper said.

Ironically, the escapee was given an easy office job in the unit and he slept near the officers who kept an eye on him.

He made his escape again with the help of a Russian girl who gave him civilian clothes and a train ticket to Riga, the capital of Latvia. From there he made his way home to Estonia.

Walesa moves to strengthen office

WASRAV (AP) — Critics say President Lech Walesa is trying to monopolize power by building up his office and putting off a parliamentary vote.

But Walesa says the Advisory Council his opponents look on suspiciously will be a useful, broad-based forum, and, after the tumult of the presidential vote, the country needs a rest before choosing lawmakers.

Walesa was sworn in as Poland's first popularly elected head of state on Dec. 22. Since then, he has proposed surrounding himself with an Advisory Council of representatives from Poland's rapidly expanding array of political parties.

Political opponents fear Walesa really wants to use the council as an easily manipulated substi-

tute for a democratically elected parliament. He has already agreed it can't be called a "presidential" council.

The president's office started accepting applications for the council last week, but some influential parties have refused to participate.

The Citizens Movement for Democratic Action, which supported then-Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki's failed presidential bid, says the council is undemocratic. The group is among those prepared to boycott the council.

Walesa's confidants say the fears are unfounded. They insist the council would be a useful forum at a time when parliament is not genuinely representative and emotions are running high

over painful economic reforms.

Despite democratic changes in 1989, Poland still has not had fully free parliament elections. A political deal ensure the Communists and their former allies a percentage of the seats in the current parliament, elected in June 1989.

Walesa, the former Solidarity chairman, replaced President Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Communist Party leader who took office under the same arrangement. Jaruzelski resigned early under pressure to move Poland's democratic transformation forward.

Now Walesa is suggesting postponing genuine parliament elections until autumn.

Two rebel right-wing politicians win 1st round of special parliamentary poll

PARIS (AP) — Two rebel right-wing politicians have won the first round of special parliamentary elections they billed as a crusade to rid France of political corruption.

A third finished second in her district but will also compete in runoff elections on Feb. 3.

The three — Lyon Mayor Michel Noir, Jean-Michel Duherard and former Health Minister Michele Barzach — quit last month to force the vote. It was seen as a challenge to Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, a former premier and leader of the conservative Rally for the Republic Party.

Noir and Duherard easily won their Lyon contests and will face runoff opponents from Jean-Marie Le Pen's extreme-right

National Front, which posted a surprisingly strong showing ahead of the traditional mainstream parties.

Noir captured 43 per cent of the vote for his seat. His nearest challenger, Bruno Gollnisch, weighed in with 16 per cent. Duherard won 40 per cent of the vote compared to 18 per cent for the Front's Alain Breuil.

Record low voter turnout may have contributed to the National Front's performance in Lyon. Only about 30 per cent of the southern city's registered voters cast ballots.

In a news conference, Noir blamed the turnout on the impact of the Gulf war, which has diverted attention from domestic politics.

In the 15th district of Paris, Ms. Barzach made the run-off but finished second, with 26 per cent, behind Rene Galy-Dejean of the Rally for the Republic Party with 41 per cent. Turnout stood at about 40 per cent.

Noir, 46, an up-and-coming national figure, resigned his National Assembly seat on Dec. 6 and urged other politicians to follow him in protest of what he called broad corruption destroying political life.

The crusade failed to attract widespread support, but the resignations further loosened Chirac's weakening grip on his fractious party, divided among diehard Gaullists and a younger generation of deputies like Noir and Barzach.

Mandela, Buthelezi meet today to forge S. African township truce

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Nelson Mandela and Mangosuthu Buthelezi, rival leaders of South Africa's biggest anti-apartheid movement, meet face-to-face Tuesday to try to end civil war between their supporters.

It will be the first meeting between Mandela, president of the African National Congress (ANC), and Zulu chief Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, for 30 years.

Factional fighting between ANC and Inkatha has claimed an estimated 5,000 lives since 1987, the bloodiest period in modern South African history.

The violence is one of the biggest obstacles to white President F.W. De Klerk's plans to scrap apartheid and grand national political power to South Africa's black majority.

Mandela, freed from jail last February, and Buthelezi have vowed to do all they can to seek peace, although officials have played down hopes for a quick settlement.

"We go to our meeting with Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi with the intention that there will be no winners or losers," Mandela said.

"We are going with an appeal to forget the past and to concentrate the future," he told supporters Saturday.

Buthelezi told a weekend rally of his supporters that he hoped the meeting, to be held in the Indian Ocean city of Durban, would lead to peace between the two organisations.

"I am going there to ring the bells of victory, of peace, against war and revolution," he said.

De Klerk, who is expected to announce the abolition of most remaining apartheid laws at the state opening of parliament in Cape Town Friday, needs a truce between the two factions to get

them round the constitutional negotiating table.

Township residents fear that failure of the Mandela-Buthelezi talks will provoke further axe, spear and gun battles between their followers in the black urban areas of Natal province and in Johannesburg's black settlements.

A recent lull in the fighting has raised hopes that a lasting peace can be achieved.

If the two men can strike a deal and end the township carnage, De Klerk is expected to be able to widen his power-sharing talks from the ANC to other black anti-apartheid movements including Inkatha.

The Durban talks have been made possible through the quiet diplomacy of ANC and Inkatha leaders in Natal who have been meeting over the past few months to find common ground.

Ideological differences between the pro-business Inkatha and the socialist-leaning ANC likely to be set aside in favour of finding ways of persuading their supporters to lay down their weapons, political analysts said.

South Africa's white-led police are trying to make friends with the nation's black majority after 40 years of often harsh action to uphold apartheid, Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said Sunday.

Vlok said the gradual repeal of legislated discrimination, known as apartheid, was clearing the way for normal relations between police and the public.

"We are putting the emphasis more now on protecting the individual than on protecting the state," Vlok said in an interview during a weekend meeting with senior police officers.

"We are looking at the attitudes of the men on the ground towards the community they must protect and we are looking at ways to gain the confidence of the

government, who have killed thousands of black since 1985 in sometimes violent action to contain anti-apartheid protest.

Mandela accused police of siding with pro-apartheid forces in township clashes and have repeatedly demanded Vlok's resignation.

A supreme court judge found earlier this month that a senior officer had plotted to kill anti-apartheid leaders.

Vlok said he would encourage the promotion of black officers, but he would not sanction a deliberate programme of affirmative action to bring blacks into the policy-making senior ranks now dominated by white Afrikaner policemen.

He said about 60 per cent of the 107,000 civilians and officers in the police force were black, but the highest ranking black officer was brigadier.

"We have to get away from the 'we' and 'they' part of our relationship with the black communities now," he said.

Meanwhile, mourners poured into the black township of Sebokeng Sunday to bury 39 African National Congress supporters killed in a Jan. 12 massacre. Also, police reported seven more deaths in unrest nationwide.

Police and the military, concerned about possible violence at the Sebokeng funeral, set up roadblocks on streets leading into the township outside Johannesburg. About 15,000 people gathered in the township stadium, where coffins were displayed on the field. Youths chanted ANC slogans.

The massacre occurred at a funeral vigil not far from the stadium, when unidentified assailants with AK-47 assault rifles fired into a crowd of ANC mourners and killed at least 39.

Failed Ciskei coup leader killed

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A fugitive general was shot to death in a clinic after military leaders in the Ciskei homeland claimed they rushed a two-man coup attempt, according to news reports Monday.

The Independent South African Press Association (SAPA) reported Lt. Gen. Charles Sebe was shot and killed in a clinic where he was being treated for wounds received earlier in a confrontation with government forces.

Military ruler Brig. Gen. Oupa Gqozo said Monday he had been informed of Sebe's death, but he declined to comment. The reports did not indicate when Sebe was killed.

Few details were released ab-

out the reported coup, raising doubts in South Africa about what had happened in Ciskei.

Military authorities in the nominally independent black homeland on South Africa's southeast coast said Sebe and another officer, Col. Mangwane Guzana, were shot by government troops Sunday at a road block. Guzana was killed, but Sebe escaped after being wounded, they said.

Ciskei military forces launched an intense hunt for Sebe and tracked him down at a clinic where he was being treated for wounds. The SAPA report gave no details on the circumstances surrounding Sebe's death.

The authorities claimed the two officers were plotting to oust the military government. Sebe was the brother of former President Lennox Sebe, who was ousted in a military coup in March 1990 by Gqozo and other army officers.

Guzana helped lead the uprising against President Sebe.

Guzana was accused of treason after Sebe's ouster and fled to the nearby homeland of Transkei. Ciskei had been trying to have him extradited since late last year. South Africa gave independence to four black homelands as part of its apartheid policy of separate development for whites and blacks. No nation except South Africa recognises the homelands.

Colombia balanced on knife edge between peace and drug war

BOGOTA (R) — Colombians felt their country was balanced on a knife edge between peace and war Sunday after drug traffickers killed an ex-president's daughter and pledged to resume attacks on the state.

Colombia's biggest newspaper, El Tiempo, said there was a general feeling that the killing of Diana Turbay during a police operation to free her from traffickers last Friday had "once again placed the country on the edge of violence."

Nobel Prize-winning author Gabriel Marquez appealed to the drug traffickers to spare the lives of four remaining hostages "as a last chance to save the country."

Minutes after Friday's police raid, the cocaine lords announced they would resume a bloody drug war which killed thousands of people in the year after August 1989. The also threatened to murder two of their hostages.

The threat of new violence came less than two weeks before an elected National Assembly be-

gins a thorough overhaul of Colombia's constitution on Feb. 5. The traffickers have high hopes that the assembly will use its unlimited powers to forever bury extradition to the United States — the fate they most fear — and could even grant them an amnesty.

The traffickers' new declaration of war has fuelled fears among Western diplomats that the drug traffickers could intimidate assembly members to get their way.

Some politicians said the killing of Turbay, the journalist daughter of ex-President Julio Cesar Turbay kidnapped five months earlier, had smashed President Cesar Gaviria's attempts to reach a peaceful solution to the drug conflict.

"You would have to be very optimistic not to realise that Diana Turbay's murder has broken the process," El Tiempo quoted conservative Senator Martinez

Sunday as saying.

A fierce debate broke out in the country over whether to react to Turbay's killing by cracking down on the traffickers or by making more concessions.

Since taking office last August, Gaviria has sought an alternative to all-out conflict by trying to woo the drug lords into surrender with promises of immunity from extradition and reduced sentences.

The policy had successes with the recent surrender of brothers Jorge Luis and Fabio Ochoa, among the most-wanted leaders of the Medellin cocaine cartel. But criticism of Gaviria's policy, long suppressed, began to emerge this weekend.

"We must resort to authority because it has been shown that dialogue is of no use," headline former Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds told one newspaper. "If there are deaths when you make concessions, and deaths when you don't, why make concessions?"



Wham to reunite for Rio festival

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Fans Sunday eagerly anticipated the reunion of the pop group Wham and a performance by blues sensation Lisa Stansfield at the close of the 10-day mega-festival "Rock In Rio II."

The festival has been marred by two deaths and has attracted only about half the one million people originally expected to attend. One fan was shot three times while waiting in line Wednesday and died early Thursday. There were no arrests and no motive has been reported. Another fan fractured his skull and died Thursday after attempting to scale a wall outside the stadium. Despite a steady drizzle throughout the day, about 80,000 fans were expected to turn out at Rio's cavernous Maracana Soccer Stadium, which has a concert seating capacity of 120,000. Brazilian guitarist Leo Jaime was to kick off the night's festivities at 6 p.m. (2000 GMT), to be followed by countrymen Moraes and Peper, local hero Gilberto Gil, and the American-Russian-Japanese trio Deee-Lite. After Stansfield's show, ex-Wham duo George Michael and Andrew Ridgeley were to wrap up the festival with their first performance together in more than four years. On Saturday, a crowd estimated at more than 70,000, the second largest since the festival began on Jan. 18, sang and danced along with pop artist Debbie Gibson, Norwegian rockers A-Ha, and five other bands. The day's 11 hours of music did not end until the British group Happy Mondays signed off around 5:00 a.m. (0700 GMT) Sunday. A total of 24 international groups and 20 local acts have performed at the festival, including Prince, American rap group Run D.M.C., teeny bopper heartthrobs New Kids On The Block, heavy metal rockers Guns 'N' Roses, blues singer Joe Cocker and the group Santana. Others include Billy Idol and groups Judas Priest, Faith No More and Information Society.

A split \$90 m

lottery prize

NEW YORK (R) — Nine New York state residents will split a \$90 million lottery prize, the United States' third-highest, officials have announced. The super lotto drawing capped a week of frenzied ticket-buying by New Yorkers eager to become millionaires. Seven winning tickets were held by New York City area residents and the other two by buyers elsewhere in the state. Each winner will receive \$10 million over 20 years, said New York Lotto spokeswoman Ann Doyle. That comes out to roughly \$475,000 a year after taxes, she said. Lotto players select six numbers from one to 54. The odds of picking the right numbers were 13 million to one. The prize was the highest ever in New York state, but fell short of a \$115 million prize in Pennsylvania and a \$106 million prize in Florida. Saturday's prize grew to \$90 million after a \$50 million prize went unclaimed and was boosted by heavy ticket buying. Proceeds from lottery ticket sales help to support public education.

Singer leaves hospital

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Country music singer Barbara Mandrell has returned home from a hospital where she spent 12 days being treated for pneumonia, a spokeswoman said. "She is still quite weak, but was anxious to be home with her family to continue her recuperation," said spokeswoman Jeannie Ghent. Mandrell, 42, who has three children, was released from Baptist Hospital.

Actress 'can be wild' without drugs

NEW YORK (AP) — Screen siren Kim Basinger says she can be wild without drugs or alcohol. The 37-year-old actress, who steamed up the screen in 9 1-2 weeks, admits in the February issue of Cosmopolitan that she's done a lot of wild things, including drugs and plenty of partying. "When I came to L.A., I said, 'I want to take everything I want to try it all,'" she said. The debilitating effects of cocaine "made me very snappy in one way. It made me know that you could never use it and get by."

Basinger skirted the issue when asked about her reported personal relationship with the Marrying Man co-star Alec Baldwin and past courtship with singer Prince, but said she would like to marry again. "It's so much more romantic than being a single person," she said.

10 killed, 14 injured in violent Haiti protests

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Rumours of a plot to free the jailed leader of a Jan. 6 coup attempt provoked violent street protests Sunday that left at least ten dead and 14 wounded, according to independent radio reports.

Four reputed agents of the ousted Duvalier dictatorship were lynched by a mob and six protesters were shot by soldiers, the reports said.

Government and military officials denied there had been an attempt to free the leader.

The crisis failed to attract widespread support, but the resignations further loosened Chirac's weakening grip on his fractious party, divided among diehard Gaullists and a younger generation of deputies like Noir and Barzach.

many sections of Port-Au-Prince, capital of this impoverished nation of 6 million.

In suburban Carrefour, soldiers opened fire on an unruly crowd, killing at least six protesters, Radio Haiti Inter said. It put the number of wounded at 14.

Among the dead was a blind musician, organizer Ulrick Pierre, known as "Ti-Pierre."

Eyewitnesses said a police station was burned in Carrefour and that the army opened fire on the crowd.

Protesters also burned the house of a Duvalier dictatorship, which ended in 1986, Radio Metropole reported. It said the victims' bodies were burned.

At 7:00 a.m. (1200 GMT) calm was restored and at noon (1600 GMT) Port-Au-Prince Mayor

Evans Paul appealed to Carrefour population to clear the streets after the morning violence. He said one activist was stabbed in the back and wounded when he tried to persuade the mob to go home.

Paul had announced in separate broadcasts on state radio that rumours of a plan to free Lafontant were unfounded.

Lafontant, former head of the hated Tonton Macoute militia, and 15 others seized the National Palace three weeks ago and held interim President Ertha Pascal-Trouillot hostage in an attempt to take power before President-Elect Jean-Bertrand Aristide was inaugurated.

Loyalist soldiers stormed the palace, foiling the coup, after a 10-hour standoff. The coup attempt touched off